

Nixon's Interest In Public Life

Los Angeles

Richard Nixon wants to resume an active public life in about six months and is interested in possibly becoming a radio or television commentator on world and national events, a Los Angeles columnist and television producer said yesterday.

Wally George, who writes for four weekly newspapers and produces the "Sam Yorty" show on Channel 13, said he spent an hour with Mr. Nixon at San Clemente recently. George said the former President invited him to the meeting after he wrote a column defending Mr. Nixon.

George said he found Mr. Nixon "extremely vibrant and vital — a very enthusiastic, warm and friendly person."

After he completes his book and finishes his TV commitments to do a series of interviews conducted by David Frost, Mr. Nixon wants to become more active "in any way I can be of help to the country," George said.

George said Mr. Nixon was interested in the type of radio commentary program which former Governor Ronald Reagan now has on several hundred stations across the country which

is distributed through syndication rather than on a network.

George said that during their conversation Mr. Nixon himself brought up the subject of Watergate. George said he told Mr. Nixon that many people missed him as President.

"This Watergate thing was ridiculous," George quoted Nixon as saying.

"It was nothing like the press made it out to be. Sure, it was a stupid mistake. But other Presidents have been involved in things like this for years — the tapping of opposition headquarters type of thing. But with them it was much worse because they used the FBI but we never did."

George said he asked why there were so many liberals in government and so few conservatives. He quoted Mr. Nixon as replying:

"Unfortunately many liberals are drawn into government and the news media while many conservatives are drawn into big business. And it is also unfortunate that oftentimes many liberals are long on intelligence but short on principles and some conservatives are long on principles but short on intelligence."

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