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Businessmen's Club
Is Joined by Nixon
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Los Angeles Times

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif.—Richard M. Nixon has joined the Lincoln Club, an Orange County businessmen's organization that is a large contributor to Republican political candidates.

A Lincoln Club source said the former President wrote a membership check for \$500 on Dec. 13, when about 20 of the organization's board members were guests for breakfast at Nixon's San Clemente estate.

The source said Nixon talked with board members for about two hours, mostly discussing foreign policy. He said Nixon's membership should not be interpreted as a return to politics.

"To me it was a gesture of good will," the source said. "I just think he did it because of knowing the Lincoln Club members are strong people in the field of politics and have the good of the people at heart. It's really not an emerging into politics. It's maybe a

'thank you' to supporters of his in the past."

The Lincoln Club, which has a membership of more than 100, donated \$141,041 in 1974 to federal, state and local candidates.

Its membership has included Nixon's former attorney, Herbert W. Kalmbach of Newport Beach, who was convicted on two counts of violating federal election laws during the Watergate investigations; actor John Wayne; and Walter Knott, founder of Knott's Berry Farm.

Robert Beaver, Lincoln Club treasurer, confirmed that Nixon had paid the \$500 membership fee but said the former President probably is too busy with the book he is writing to come to club meetings. The 20 board members meet once a month for breakfast. Beaver said a club member had arranged for them to be Nixon's guests at San Clemente.

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