

Election

Delays

Nixon Book

San Clemente

Richard Nixon has told President Ford that he will defer until after the November election the publication of his political memoirs, according to a source close to the former President.

Mr. Nixon's postponement of the project, for which he has received a substantial cash advance, was said to be in keeping with his decision to remain publicly aloof from this year's presidential campaign.

It is for that reason that his four-part television appearances with David Frost were earlier scheduled for airing after the election.

"He is acutely concerned lest any involvement on his part, in open support of President Ford's candidacy, should exacerbate the already serious cleavage among Republican voters," said the source, who talks frequently with Mr. Nixon.

The Nixon friend and confidant said, however, that this does not mean that Mr. Nixon will not work behind the scenes for Mr. Ford.

The informant also said that the ex-President has, for the same reason, turned down several "very lucrative offers" for lectures between now and November.

One of the invitations, the source said, was from a group of Texans who offered more than \$15,000.

The source added that Mr. Nixon also will postpone until 1977 his planned trips abroad as a private citizen for talks with foreign political leaders.

There is evidence that Mr. Nixon already is working quietly to enhance Mr. Ford's political appeal and to combat the opposition of conservative Republicans who, in Mr. Nixon's view, would weaken American foreign policy.

Mr. Nixon is said to regard former California Governor Ronald Reagan as a serious threat to the party's unity.