

'Final' Word

By Maxine Cheshire

Former President Richard M. Nixon's literary agent, Irving (Swifty) Lazar says that he expects his client to "adjust" his own memoirs to have the final word on "The Final Days."

Lazar, in Washington last week, said that he has read that portion of Nixon's manuscript dealing with the same time span as Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's controversial new best-seller.

Nixon's version "doesn't contain some of the incidents in 'The Final Days,'" Lazar said. "But then you wouldn't expect him to say he had been drinking heavily. . . which I gather he was . . . it is a very emotional description of his last days though."

Lazar was in town to sign up two public officials who don't want their book plans known until they leave office, he said. Neither one of them was Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, although Lazar still has hopes of getting his signature on a multi-million-dollar book deal.

Potpourri

Conservative Republican William Lear, who contributed to both of Richard M. Nixon's campaigns has decided to support California's liberal Democratic Governor Jerry Brown this time. "He is what this country needs right now," Lear said last week. . . Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr.'s wife, Susan, who has only been in real estate for a couple of years, will take over the Washington office of the prestigious Previews brokerage on May 1. The company, which sells some of the world's most glamorous and expensive celebrity properties, is undergoing an upheaval. Joan Day, who has run the operation here for years, is leaving to join a group of other Previews vice presidents who have formed their own firm, Illustrated Properties Inc.

CBS forced the producers of "All the President's Men" to cut Daniel Schorr's voice out of the movie's sound-track even though Walter Cronkite and George Herman were left in. But Bill Small, senior vice president and director of news for CBS, says the editing had nothing to do with Schorr's current difficulties over leaking the Pike Committee's CIA Report. Schorr's original video tape was being altered to fit the script, Small says, and this violates CBS policy. . . The blonde with Eric Sevareid at The Magic Pan Creperie last Sunday night was Suzanne St. Pierre, a researcher on "60 Minutes." She wore blue jeans. He wore a tan safari outfit.

Former White House photographer Ollie Atkins has begun writing a book on his experiences working and traveling with Richard M. Nixon and his family. But he's hampered by the fact that almost all his pictures have been impounded by the government as part of Nixon's contested presidential tapes and documents. Atkins shot thousands of rolls of film while the Nixons were in the White House, including some the family didn't know he took of their private living quarters when they were away. . . CBS wanted to buy one of Atkins' unpublished photos recently but his negatives were under lock and key at the GSA. The picture the network sought showed Nixon down on his hands and knees in the Oval Office with a young blind man who was fingering the raised pile of the Presidential Seal set into the carpeting.