

Nixon calls love letters hoax

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WASHINGTON — Copies of letters purportedly written by then-President Richard Nixon to a lover are forgeries and part of a "sordid hoax," an aide to the former president said Friday.

Col. Jack Brennan said Nixon's lawyer has sent a telegram to New York literary agent Scott Meredith "putting him on notice of the fraudulent nature of the letters purportedly in his possession."

In Birmingham, Ala., meanwhile, a source who claims to have copies of the letters said they were spirited out of the White House even before the originals were mailed.

The source is an Alabama woman who submitted to an interview on the condition that she remain anonymous.

She said she has copies of about 20 letters written while Nixon was president. She said she received them from a friend who in turn had obtained them from a White House employe.

The Alabama woman said she was the source from whom Meredith received the letters, through an intermediary.

The letters, many of which are written on White House stationery, begin with "Dear", "Dearest", "Hello," and "Hi" preceding the unidentified addressee's first name, and most are signed "Love, Dick."

There is much direct mention of the love affair, and there is no question a sexual relationship was involved, the Alabama woman said.