

Nixon 'Love Letters' Found To Be Forgeries in Inquiry By Chief Postal Inspector

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 (AP)—The "Richard Nixon love letters" are forgeries, says the chief postal inspector.

"A handwriting analysis has determined that the letters were not written" by former President Richard M. Nixon or by "any of the other individuals who were known to possess copies of them," Chief Inspector C. Neil Benson said in a letter to Mr. Nixon's attorney.

Last June 3, a New York literary agent, Scott Meredith, said he had an unauthenticated set of love letters supposedly written by Mr. Nixon to an unidentified woman during the last days of his Presidency.

Mr. Meredith said four handwriting experts had verified that the letters, written on legal pads, were in Mr. Nixon's hand. A Nixon aide, Col. Jack Brennan, said at the time, however, that the letters were a "sordid hoax."

Mr. Benson said the letters apparently originated in Washington and passed through the hands of individuals in Detroit and Los Angeles before coming to Mr. Meredith's attention.

Salesman Has Since Died

"The Inspection Service was able to trace the letters back as far as a Washington salesman, now deceased, who apparently knew the letters were a hoax but who did not himself write them," Mr. Benson wrote to Herbert J. Miller, Mr. Nixon's attorney.

"It has been concluded that the persons to whom the letters passed subsequently did not know them to be forgeries and had no intent to defraud," Mr. Benson said. "Therefore, the Postal Service has closed its investigation with a determination that no prosecution is warranted."

Mr. Miller said today that he was releasing the Benson letter, dated Sept. 27, because of the "wide circulation given to the original reports."

The news reports placed the number of letters from four to 22.

When the reports of the "love letters" were first made, The Birmingham (Ala.) News said it had been told by a source that he possessed some copies of the letters and that they indicated the woman wanted to marry Mr. Nixon and was insistent about it.

The News said its source asserted that he had received copies of about 20 letters from a friend who, in turn, said they had come from a White House employee.