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Nixon hosts GOP buffet: his first step back to politics

United Press International
SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. — Backed up by a poolside buffet, Richard Nixon took his first step back into party politics Sunday by hosting a \$100,000-plus GOP fundraiser at his Casa Pacifica home.

More than 400 Republicans paid \$250 apiece to munch Alaskan crab and avocado dip, while listening to a strolling mariachi band.

The former president and his wife, Pat, stood in the sunny 85-degree weather for hours greeting guests, some of whom brought copies of Nixon's book "R.N." for autographs.

It was the latest in a series of carefully spaced public appearances by Nixon. It was also the first time he had involved himself in Republican Party affairs since Watergate forced his resignation from the presidency in August 1974.

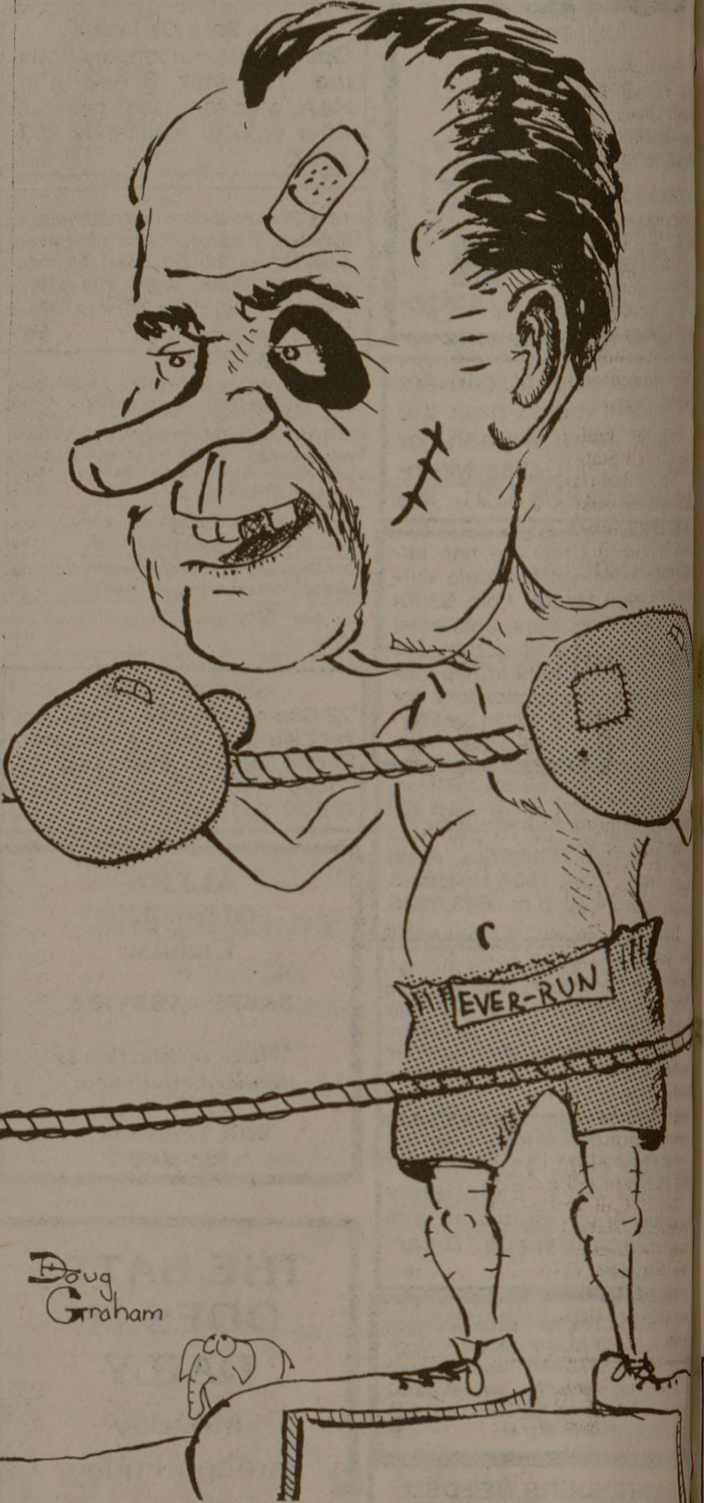
The news media was barred from the party, but Rep. Robert Badham, R-Calif., emerged briefly to tell reporters about the "very homey, folksy get-together of the party faithful."

"Nixon looked as though he was thoroughly enjoying himself," Badham said.

The former president suggested that the Republican Party pursue the theme of cutting taxes and reduce spending, particularly in 1980, similar to California's Proposition 13.

"Republicans can use the economy to their advantage," Nixon said.

Badham said Nixon made no mention of President Carter and gave no indication that he himself intended to get back into national politics. Nixon did not speak of foreign policy, either, but Badham said "no one would have been disappointed if he had."



Now You Know
United Press International
One of the earliest references to a beauty pageant is found in the Greek myth that has Paris of Troy awarding a golden apple inscribed "for the most beautiful" to the goddess Aphrodite — leaving Hera and Athena furious runners-up.

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