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ROSCOE DRUMMOND

Pat Nixon Made the Decision to Move, Get Out of Political Fire

The human story of why Richard Nixon transplanted his career from California to New York, and thereby took himself completely out of the running for any elective office, is a fascinating one.

The unexpected ingredients are: Who made the final decision? And why move at all?

Nixon furnished the answers in a long and unusually candid interview.

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Mrs. Nixon, who helped her husband stump the country so many times for others and for himself, made the firm and final decision—no more politics.

Her motive—to take the whole Nixon family, including their children, 17-year-old Tricia and 16-year-old Julie, out of the harsh heat of political campaigning.

"I had been considering for several months the offer to join the New York law firm of Mudge, Stern, Baldwin, and Todd. But Pat herself made the final decision to make the change," Nixon told me.

"After we had talked it all over, I said to Pat, 'Okay, you say yes or no.' It took her less than a half second to say yes. She

currents of speculation that Nixon was eager to still—the idea that he was so distressed by the results of the California election that he wanted to leave the state, and the theory that the lure of a big income from a lush New York law practice was compulsive.

Neither of these ar-



Pat Nixon

maker, not as a potential candidate, not as a party organizer. As a leader of thought — that's how I'd put it.

"Another thing you have to realize is that in California I was subject to an immense number of calls to organize the party, to run the party, to answer the mail, to do all the chores of party organization — and no staff.

"What you really get down to here is a fault in the political system. If they want a former candidate for President, for example, to continue to be an effective spokesman, then the party ought to provide him with something in the way of a staff. It cost me more than \$50,000 a year out of my own pocket just to answer my mail, and then it was inadequate."

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Those who are familiar with Nixon's personal finances since the 1960 campaign testify that his prospective New York income was not a factor in his decision to move. His immediate guaranteed income will be more than double the salary of the President of the United States, but his earnings during 1961 and 1962 from the practice of law in California and from writ

guments, he said, had any weight, any validity.

"My wife wanted us to get out of the line of political crossfire and be sure we stayed out," he explained. "Very frankly, we would both prefer to live in California. I want to make that clear. If it were a question of where to live, it would be California. We like the life there, we have our family there, our friends.