

McFARLAND, Harvey

Harvey McFarland Recalls *Picton - Biog -* Visits With President Nixon

By MARGARET HAYLOCK
Staff Reporter

PICTON (Staff) — Harvey J. McFarland, in his first press conference since he stepped down as mayor of Picton, yesterday revealed details of a recent Washington visit with United States president Richard Nixon.

The construction tycoon, who



H. J. McFARLAND

headed Picton's administration for 20 years, flew to Washington D.C. on August 1 and on Wednesday, August 2, called at the White House shortly after noon.

Mr. McFarland, a personal friend of the Nixon family, was received by the president's secretary and invited to visit with him in his office.

"It's really something to go through those iron gates and see those security fellows," commented Mr. McFarland.

The offices of the president's secretary also impressed Mr. McFarland, who observed "talk about telephones and buttons to push."

The former Picton mayor said Mr. Nixon greeted him by his first name and immediately called for a staff photographer to snap pictures of their meeting.

Mr. McFarland noted the Viet Nam war was discussed and he told the president he was sorry that he had taken blame for it.

He added that he suggested to Mr. Nixon the late president Kennedy might have prevented the rise of guerilla warfare by going into Cuba with

a full-scale fleet and effecting a takeover.

Nostalgia marked the conversation as the president and Mr. McFarland recalled the former's visit to Picton in 1957.

Mr. Nixon signed autographs from his yacht docked at Prince Edward Yacht Club and made a wish come true for one unidentified 3-year-old



PRESIDENT NIXON

boy. Mayor McFarland remembered the child told Mr. Nixon his mother was a fan of his but could not see him in person because she was ill. Mr. Nixon promptly left his yacht and walked with the little boy to his home to say hello to the woman.

President Nixon, in Mr. McFarland's opinion, is at present making commendable efforts on behalf of his country.

"I don't think there is anyone trying to do more than he is," ventured the former mayor.

"He didn't cause the war and he is doing his best to settle it and to bring the soldiers back," he added.

Mr. McFarland said he dislikes criticisms from Canadians concerning the location of American industry here. "It's for the interest of our people and our children," he asserted.

Mr. McFarland also praised president Nixon for his establishment of a wage scale and called it a "good move."

When asked if he thought president Nixon would re-visit Prince Edward one day, Mr. McFarland replied that he considered it likely. He added that he had arranged for Mr. Nixon to come to the county with evangelist Billy Graham while he was mayor of Picton.

The men were to have spent a day here, possibly at Outlet Beach provincial park. Although the trip had been confirmed, it failed to materialize when Mr. McFarland refused to stand for re-election in 1970.

Asked if he had considered running for election as mayor of Picton this fall, Mr. McFarland replied he has received many calls urging him to seek office. He indicated interest, but suggested he might find a lighter schedule of duties necessary should he decide to

Former Picton Mayor Attends U. S. Republican Covention

PICTON (Staff) — Dubbed "the ambassador of anada" by president Richard Nixon, former Picton mayor Harvey J. McFarland will fly to Florida this month for the Republican convention.

Mr. McFarland who visited the president in Washington D.C. earlier this month will attend the \$500 plate dinner

at the Republican Convention Gala '72 held at Miami Beach this weekend.

The convention will begin Monday morning and Mr. McFarland has expressed hopes for "a cup of coffee and a chat" with the president.

When he visited the White House on August 2, Mr. McFarland received an impressive selection of gifts from his friend Richard Nixon.

He proudly displayed a pair of cuff links bearing the presi-

dential seal, a silver cigarette case, a lapel pin signifying the privileges of the White House and a large gold ash tray, all presented to him on his recent trip.

The gifts were wrapped in heavily embossed white paper bearing the presidential seal in gold.

Mr. McFarland has enjoyed a long friendship with Richard Nixon and attended the president's inauguration with his wife, Arlie.