

Subpoena Planned On Nixon's Homes

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The chairman of a congressional investigations subcommittee said yesterday he plans to subpoena records of government spending to improve President Nixon's homes in Florida and California.

Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.) charged White House officials with "arrogant contempt" for Congress in refusing to turn over documents on expenditures on the President's properties in Key Biscayne, Fla., and San Clemente, Calif.

Brooks accused the administration of making a "systematic effort" to impede an investigation by the House Government Activities subcommittee, of which he is chairman.

Government spending on construction at Mr. Nixon's

homes is expected to total \$3.5 million to \$3.7 million, according to administration sources.

Brooks said that the General Services Administration promised on Saturday to turn over all documents relating to work on the Presidential homes, but then reneged after a three-hour meeting Sunday at the White House among GSA Administrator Arthur Sampson, Presidential Counsel Leonard Garment and Mr. Nixon's press secretary, Ronald Ziegler.

The subcommittee chairman said that following the Sunday meeting, Sampson informed him that "pursuant to instructions from the White House," no documents would be pro-

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Hill Unit Plans Subpoena For Data on Nixon Homes

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vided until the administration released a comprehensive statement in a few days.

A GSA spokesman said yesterday that Sampson had asked Brooks for more time to complete a financial statement on Mr. Nixon's properties. He said the statement will be issued "in a matter of days."

"The decision to withhold further comment and place a moratorium on the inspection of files was a joint decision between GSA, the White House and the Secret Service," said Richard Q. Vawter, the GSA spokesman. He said the White House did not order the GSA to withhold the documents.

Asked whether GSA would honor a subpoena for the documents, Vawter said, "We would get together with them to make arrangements and provide the material. We have nothing to hide."

Brooks said that shortly after the subcommittee began its investigation on July 12, the GSA produced a 46-page summary of federal spending at San Clemente and Key Biscayne, totaling \$1.9 million.

Earlier, the GSA had issued a partial list of expenditures that reflected costs of \$39,000 for the California White House. Vawter said that list reflected only four construction items specifically requested by a reporter.

The GSA has maintained that the construction projects at the presidential

compounds were requested by the Secret Service. They included landscaping, lawn sprinkler systems, fences, roof repairs, roadways, furnaces, beach cabanas and wall repairs.

At the White House yesterday, Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren refused to describe the expenditures as "improvements." Instead, he repeatedly referred to the construction as "support-oriented, security-ordered work."

Warren promised a full accounting "possibly within a week."

"We are certainly anxious to have this matter laid out certainly

discomfited by the series of stories which have been misleading about this," said Warren.

Brooks said that on the basis of a GSA promise that "seven feet" of documents on San Clemente expenditures were available for inspection at a regional office, he sent a subcommittee investigator to San Francisco.

The investigator, Brooks said, found only one small box of records at the regional office. Moreover, Brooks said, by the time the GSA sent copies to Washington, "the documents had shrunk to one half of a box."

Similarly, the subcommittee chairman said, Key Biscayne records supposedly totaling three cubic yards "shrunk" to half a box by the time they arrived at Brooks' office here.

"Once again, we are witnessing arrogant contempt for the Congress and the

Constitution by White House appointees," Brooks complained.

Asked whether he would attempt to force the subpoenas with court action, Brooks said, "I'd be pleased and honored to do so. . . I can't see any executive privilege connected with a line agency like the GSA."

Brooks said that on Thursday he will ask the full House Government Operations Committee to invoke its subpoena power. Committee sources said the request probably would be approved if the 41-member committee, which includes 23 Democrats, attains a quorum.

Brooks said he hopes to begin hearings into the Key Biscayne and San Clemente matters after the August recess.

The hearings, he said, will include construction work on Grand Cay in the Bahamas, an island owned by New York industrialist Robert H. Abplanalp. Mr. Nixon frequently visits the island.

Brooks said the subcommittee also will investigate work done at the Bethesda home of Julie and David Eisenhower, which is owned by Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, a close friend of the President.

Brooks said he had also asked GSA to provide records of expenditures on the homes of former presidents Lyndon B. Johnson, John F. Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Harry S. Truman and Franklin D. Roosevelt. The GSA has said it will comply, according to Brooks.