

9 Sept 1973

HW:

Anticipating that you would want everything on San Clemente et al not in the WX Post, we have kept you fully covered as far as what we see is concerned, and will continue..

San Clemente deals: much more was said by Brooks and by WH Staff than appears at end WxPost Agnew-GL mtg story 9/1/73, from last night's TV news. If you have any clips that give more, I'd appreciate, thanks. HW 9/1/73

jdw

Nixon Stock Sale Reported

Garden City, N.Y.

Newsday said yesterday that when President Nixon took office in 1969 he sold 185,891 shares of stock he owned in a Florida land corporation back to the firm for double the market value.

The Long Island newspaper said Mr. Nixon's friend, Charles D. Rebozo, was president and treasurer of the corporation, Fisher's Island Inc. Another director, it said, was James Buckley Jr., a Republican (Dem. Fla.) senator.

Fisher's Island owned or controlled 25 per cent of an island in Miami's Biscayne Bay, Newsday said.

The newspaper reported that Mr. Nixon sold the 185,891 shares back to the corporation for three times the market value. It said the corporation was selling the shares to the firm for \$1.50 a share.

Newsday described this as a Florida business deal. It said Nixon is the controlling shareholder in the corporation. It said the corporation has no other operations of any kind.

Newsday said the selling

were acquired with the help of Rebozo and were "the bulk of his declared personal assets" when Mr. Nixon took office.

The newspaper said Mr. Nixon's other Florida investments were two lots at Cape Florida, a small real estate development at Key Biscayne and the presidential compound consisting of two houses, one bought from Smathers.

Two other houses in the compound are leased by the government and a fifth is owned by Rebozo, Newsday said.

The paper said Mr. Nixon received "cut rates" on the Cape Florida lots after he posed for a picture in 1967 with developer Donald Berg whom he met through Rebozo.

Newsday said Mr. Nixon's finances at the time of his election, based on a White House report, were cash and receivables, \$271,000; life insurance cash value, \$44,000; real estate, \$383,400. His liabilities, including notes, loans and mortgages came to \$382,500.

Associated Press

Alterations Alleged In Nixon Home Data

By PHILIP SHAFERCOFF
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31—The chairman of a Congressional panel investigating public spending on President Nixon's private homes said today that some documents pertaining to Mr. Nixon's purchase of San Clemente, Calif., indicated whether this work by the House, had been allowed to proceed.

Retrospective work was done by the chairman of the House committee on the subject, Mr. Brooks, said that some documents containing a legal description of 25 acres of San Clemente property, sold by the

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to two of his sons, had been altered and changed in the surveying company, following orders from Mr. Nixon's personal attorney.

A White House spokesman, Gerald L. Weber, said that Mr. Brooks was mistaken about anything that he had said about a letter from Mr. Harlow, President Nixon's attorney, to Mr. Brooks that, he said, shows that "there is nothing whatsoever suspicious or irregular about the transactions."

At a news conference on Capitol Hill today, Mr. Brooks said that he had written to Mr. Harlow asking for an explanation of "inaccuracies and inaccuracies" in some of the documents on San Clemente released by the White House. Mr. Brooks emphasized that he was making "no charge or accusation."

In his news conference, however, Mr. Brooks raised questions about a sales agreement dated Dec. 15, 1970, between President and Mrs. Nixon and Robert H. Abplanalp and C. J. Rehore, two wealthy friends who helped finance the President's purchase of San Clemente and to whom the President sold a large part of the property.

Specifically, Mr. Brooks questioned the dating on attachments to the sales agreement that contained the legal description of the parcels of property reserved to the President and those transferred to the E. & C. Investment Company, the company organized by Mr. Abplanalp and Mr. Rehore.

Errors Alleged

His staff discovered, Mr. Brooks revealed, that the surveying company, the South Coastal Engineering Services

firm, had on Jan. 4, 1971, erased the original date on the attachments and substituted the Dec. 15 date. The change was made at the behest of Frank DeMarco Jr., one of Mr. Nixon's lawyers, Mr. Brooks said.

He said that Mr. DeMarco had insisted, when asked, that no change had been made on the documents. Mr. DeMarco would not respond to a newspaper's question.

However, one of the owners of the survey concern, William Ayer, confirmed when reached today that the change had been made on the documents at Mr. DeMarco's request.

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The House committee has been conducting an intensive investigation into the expenditure of public funds for security at the President's private residences in Key Biscayne, Fla., and San Clemente and is scheduled to hold hearings on the issue in late September or early October.

So far it has been disclosed that governmental agencies have spent about \$10-million on Presidential security and safety at the former Nixon properties.

On Monday, the White House released a special audit on the President's purchase of the \$15-million estate at San Clemente and the \$225,000 Key Biscayne properties in order, according to a spokesman, "to put to rest speculation and for all the false allegations" about how Mr. Nixon acquired the properties.

In an e-mail to Mr. Brooks, Mr. Harlow said that "there was no basis for perceiving inconsistencies" in the documents questioned by Mr. Brooks and that there was no relevance between those documents and Government spending on Presidential security at San Clemente.

Mr. Harlow explained the altered dates by saying that the descriptions of the property had contained an error and had to be changed. But he asserted that the date of these descrip-

tions was "relevant to the effective date of the sales agreement."

In fact, he wrote, "the sales agreement was prepared and executed before Dec. 15, 1970." As in the date of the actual transaction, "there was no significance to his date or even the year," Mr. Harlow wrote.

As evidence that the date of the transfer is immaterial to Government spending on security, Mr. Harlow said that the main gate of San Clemente is on property sold by Mr. Nixon but the gate is still operated by the Secret Service.

NYTimes Acquittal in Gainesville

The swift acquittal by a Florida jury of the Gainesville 8, accused of conspiring to disrupt the Republican National Convention, is another deserved rebuke for the Administration in its effort to prosecute antiwar activists by infiltrating their ranks with undercover agents and provocateurs.

As in the cases of the so-called Harrisburg 7 and the Camden 25, the Justice Department relied heavily on the testimony of paid informers whose credibility faded under cross-examination. Charges that the indicted members of Vietnam Veterans Against War had plotted to attack police stations, police cars and stores with "fire teams" using automatic weapons and incendiary devices came down to courtroom admissions by Government witnesses that the only weapon they had ever seen at figuring in plans to molest Miami Beach during the convention was a slingshot.

Particularly disturbing were repeated indications at the trial that the people the Government had planted inside the antiwar group sought to incite violence of precisely the kind the Government was professing to try to stop. One undercover agent even offered to help the V.V.A.W. buy machine guns.

The testimony along that line, already made familiar by the use of similar tactics in actions against other war protesters, paralleled evidence in the Watergate investigation that E. Howard Hunt Jr., a White House master "plumber," had attempted to "embarrass the Democrats" by hiring infiltrators to cause trouble among antiwar demonstrators at the 1972 Presidential convention in Miami Beach. The Watergate parallel in the Gainesville proceedings was made stronger when two F.B.I. agents loaded with electronic equipment were discovered in a small telephone terminal room adjacent to the defense lawyers' conference room.

The trial of the Gainesville 8 was another sordid example of abuse of the legal system by an Administration that seems more intent on making political capital out of intimidating its critics than it is in enforcing the laws for the sake of order. In the wake of the Watergate exposure and the winding down of the Indochina war, we trust this trial will be the last such abuse of Governmental power.