

Cover-Up Confirmed ^{NYT} 8/10/77

Here is one cover-up the Administration admits to: From the spring of 1969 until this week, the White House and a variety of Federal agencies operated under what they term "a basic policy decision" to withhold information about all tax-funded improvements on the private residences of President Nixon.

That involved quite a lot of withholding since the total bill to the taxpayers is now disclosed to have been about \$10 million, expended in the name of Presidential security. For that matter, that was the rationale for the cover-up too. Administration officials explain that they feared revelation of the sums spent for home improvement might itself jeopardize the security of the President.

On the possibility that some of the Government-financed improvements should be considered part of personal remuneration, the Internal Revenue Service is reportedly re-examining Mr. Nixon's income tax returns for the years since 1969. Beyond that, the casual procedures by which these expenditures seem to have been authorized and the mystery that still enshrouds the basic financing through which Mr. Nixon acquired his San Clemente estate remain legitimate subjects for a detailed Congressional investigation and audit.