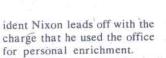
Merry-Go-Round

by Jack Anderson



Probably no other White House scandal has so enraged the American people as the story of the President's taxes and estates. Despite a salary of \$200,000 a year, he paid a federal income tax of only \$792.81 in 1970 and \$878.03 in 1971. This is no more than a working man with the same size family would pay if he earned only \$8,500 a year.

One reason the President got away with paying such low taxes was because of the deductions afforded by his homes in San Clemente and Key Biscayne. Yet the taxpayers got stuck with most of the bills for these kingly estates. They have cost the taxpayers, more than \$10 million, not counting the transportation tremendous bill bill the President and his aides have run up flying cross counttry.

Many of the expenditures Their natural reaction is to can be justified as essential to soaked for many luxuries and incidentals, such as stamping his golf tees with the pres-

predict the nation will be hit -His aides also wrangled some by electricity blackouts and extras out of the taxpayers. cold homes as a direct result At San Clemente, for examof the oil shortage. President ple, the taxpayers had to pay Nixon's political instinct will for a Muzak system to pipe be to cut back on factories music into the offices of aides rather than households. He John Ehrlichman, Henry doesn't want millions of Kissinger, Dwight Chapin voters shivering and blaming and Rose Mary Woods. The

It may be the waste, more won't be enough to operate than Watergate, that will cause the President's undoing.

Batting Back: The President has been making over-The warnings are dire. But tures to Congress to head off President Nixon is still taking the move to impeach him. He has been calling in the Nixon's Undoing: The 19- Republican members, a point bill of particulars cited group at a time, to lay his by the AFL-CIO as grounds case before them. At these

in drawing off the steam that had been building up on Capitol Hill.

But in the privacy of his oval office, the President hasn't been at all conciliatory. It is his habit to go into seclusion to grapple with a great crisis. Our White House sources say he came out of seclsion the first of Novmber with fire in his eyes.

He told aides that the American people like a fighter and that he is going to fight his way back to the top. He compared himself to the late President Harry Truman who never stopped battling when he sank in the popularity polls.

Nixon swore to his aides fiercely that he had no intention of turning the government over to those who have been out to get him. If he left the White House as his adversaries are demanding, he said, he would be cut to pieces by them.

He doesn't intend to let his adversaries shear him of his presidential powers, which would leave him unarmed and helpless. On the contrary, he is determind to stay in the White House and to use the powers of the presidency to defend himself.

Our sources say Richard Nixon made this perfectly clear.

Ironic Twist: Spiro Agnew often complained to his rich friends that the demands on a man in high office were too large for the salary. He needed cash, he told them, to carry on in the style befitting a national office holder.

Because he accepted cash, he is no longer a national office holder. But the Agnew example dramatically illustrates the problems many politicians of modest means now face.

The laws governing campaign funds have been tightned, so that politicians can no longer dip into their campaign money to pay personal bills. They have to find some other way to finance newsleeters, travel and other incidentals.

This has compelled some congressmen to raise slush funds to cover their incumbency expenses. It was a slush fund that got Richard Nixon into trouble in the 1952 campaign.

But slush funds have now become the only way some congressmen can pay for all the incidentals they used to take out of their campaign collections. Wyoming's Rep. Teno Roncalio, for example, is throwing a party billed as "Vino with Teno" to raise money. Others on Capitol Hill have planned similar fundraising affairs.

By a twist of irony, in other words, campaign reforms have forced some politicians to appeal to contributors for noncampaign funds and, thereby, to become even more dependent on rich patrons.

WASHINGTON-The economic outlook is far more bleak than President Nixon is telling the public. His own experts are warning that the Arab oil embargo will send this country into an economic tailspin. Unless it is lifted, they predict a serious recession, perhaps even a depression, within the next two years.

The oil shortage will hit all the industries, from automobiles to plastics, that use petroleum products. People will have to be laid off work. They will tighten their belts. This means less money will be spent on consumer products, which, in turn, will cause more layoffs and belttightening.

Already, the surveys show that consumers are losing confidence in the economy. They are wary about the oil shortages. They have lost faith in President Nixon's leadership. They are worried about layoffs and loss of overtime.

save money against a possible the Presidents's security. But loss of income. Therefore, the taxpayers have also been they don't buy the car or TV set or refrigerator that they might otherwise have purchased. The sale of durable idential logo and furnishing goods has already leveled off. his bathroom with his

Meanwhile, the experts favorite soap.

But if the households con- music was \$992.94. sume too much energy, there our plants. This will result, inevitably, in plant closures and increased unemployment.

only half-measures.

for the impeachment of Pres- sessions, he has been effective