

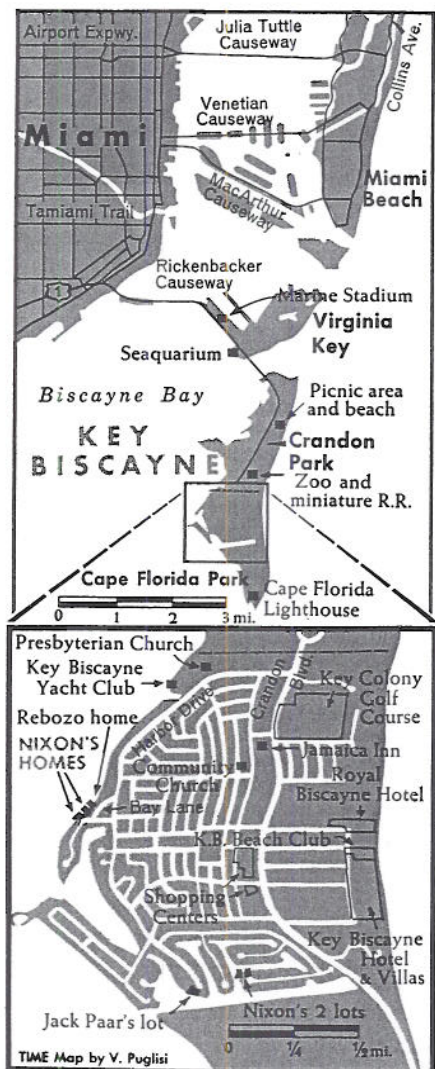
## The Key Compound

It has no sewage system and poor telephone service. After a hurricane, the roughly paved streets are often under water for days. The architecture might best be described as "Florida nondescript." Yet Key Biscayne, only 15 minutes from Miami's garish strip, is fondly billed as an "island paradise" by its chamber of commerce—and in many ways it is.

The kids (and many adults) go barefoot, the primary hobby is beach-walking, and almost everyone seems to know everyone else. As a former resident puts it, life there is casual and tropical, "exactly what you'd think Florida should be." It is a middle-class dream of the place to go when the children are grown and retirement looms. For the next four years, Key Biscayne\* will be President-elect Nixon's equivalent of the L.B.J. ranch or John Kennedy's Hyannisport compound.

Nixon has been vacationing in Key Biscayne off and on for more than 20

\* The island is named after the bay, which many assume is simply a variation on the Bay of Biscay, between France and Spain. Another theory is that it is named after Don Pedro el Biscaino, onetime keeper of swans at the Spanish court, who lived on one of the islands in the bay.



NIXON WHITE HOUSE AT KEY BISCAIYNE\*

*Where to go when the children are grown and retirement looms.*

years, although he had never owned property on the Key itself. While he does not say much about his reasons for liking the place, he has spoken in general terms about its nice weather and its informality. Perhaps the most important factor in his decision to settle there semi-permanently is his long friendship with Bachelor Financier C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo, 57. Millionaire Rebozo's house is considered part of Nixon's new beachfront compound.

That compound was put together in a brief burst of home-buying just before Christmas. Nixon first purchased a three-bedroom, three-bath house for \$127,700, then bought an adjoining dwelling for a similar price from Senator George Smathers to create a three-house enclave. (Smathers, who introduced Nixon to Rebozo in the late '40s, says that he "didn't want to sell it but I wanted Nixon to come here, and it was a case of having to sell it or else he wouldn't have come.")

**Easy Neighbors.** Now workmen are planting a thick hibiscus hedge around the compound to protect residents from the eyes of the curious. Bay Lane, on which the three houses stand, is blocked off by a five-foot-high, tightly latticed redwood screen. (An island resident says that she "really thinks most of the people feel sorry that he now has to live the way he has to.") There are rumors that one of the other two houses on the bay side of Bay Lane is currently occupied by Secret Servicemen, who control all entry to the street. Mrs. Perry O'Neal, whose husband owns the fifth bayside house on Bay Lane, says that she is "delighted to have the Nixons as neighbors. We know them only slightly, and we don't bother them." Key Biscayners are used to notables. Among residents are Sportscaster Red Barber, Aircraft Pioneer Grover Loening, N.Y. Yankee Official Larry MacPhail, Samuel C. Johnson, president of Johnson's Wax, Jack Paar and International Telephone and Telegraph President Harold S. Geneen. No longer on the scene is Candy Mossler, acquitted in 1966 of the mur-

der of her wealthy husband Jacques. For the most part, residents seem quietly pleased that Nixon has joined their group, but there are a few minority opinions. Told of the Nixon purchases, one resident sniffed: "Hmmp. There goes the neighborhood."

Before Nixon's arrival, Key Biscayne's major claim to fame was Crandon Park, a huge oceanfront expanse of beach and picnic facilities that takes up most of the Key's northern end. The residential area is in mid-island, and another, smaller park occupies the southern tip. About 5,000 people live on the key, and their incomes range from around \$10,000 to the six-figure bracket. There is an equally varied set of homes: unpretentious three-bedroom cottages sell for about \$20,000, but some large houses sell for more than \$300,000. There is a not-particularly-elegant yacht club, shopping centers and a restaurant or two, including Nixon's favorite, Jamaica Inn. The island's rapid development prompted Mrs. Muriel Curtis, president of the Key Biscayne Beach Club, to say that she feels that she "should have blown up the bridge 17 years ago, when we were all barefoot and happy."

**Wasp Enclave.** Key Biscayne, in fact, has until now been a quiet, relaxed, off-shore suburb largely populated by white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant Americans. "Sure," says Real Estate Broker Peter Ferguson, a twelve-year resident, "we have our drunks, our fags, our swinging couples and our divorcees—just like any other place." But the island has few problems faced by most mainland communities. Only three Negroes live there. While the Key Biscayne Hotel quietly ended its gentiles-only policy a decade ago, the Key Biscayne Club still allows no one but Caucasians to enjoy its facilities. (A Negro youth and his white host were thrown off the club's beach for breaking that rule in 1966.)

For Richard Nixon, the prototype of

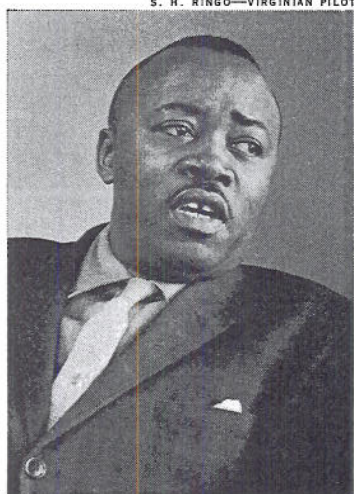
\* The houses left and center are Nixon's; the one at right is Bebe Rebozo's.

the transient, rootless American, Key Biscayne is an appropriate hideaway. He has almost no friends on the key, and his visits there will be therapeutic, not social. Born and educated in California, Nixon went to Washington, spent almost six restless years in equally restless Manhattan, and now faces a hectic four-year term. Key Biscayne, populated by people very like himself who have come South seeking sun and sand, offers him the comfort and privacy he needs, and tactful, close-mouthed Bebe Rebozo is one of the few intimates deeply trusted by the President-elect. "They're not far wrong if they call it Dullsville," says Senator Smathers. Given the burdens Nixon will assume on Jan. 20, Dullsville may be just the spot he needs in his leisure time.

ters to provide basic training.\* These centers hold workshops for potential candidates on legal requirements for filing, costs and techniques of campaigning, and their official duties. They also provide advice to those already in office and help black officials to research and introduce legislation.

**Establishing Authority.** Valuable as this assistance is, it is still the black officials themselves who must solve the problems of establishing their authority in a largely hostile white society. White intransigence to political integration takes many forms, ranging from defiance to outright intimidation. Black justices and constables are told by white offenders that "no nigger is going to tell us what to do." Moses Riddick, a member of the Board of Supervisors

**Crisis of Identity.** Frustrating and vicious as white resistance can be, it is only part of the problem. Many black officials are split over the question of whom they represent, often finding themselves in a crossfire between militant and moderate members of the Negro community, including many who feel that they should not have run in the first place. When A. W. Willis campaigned unsuccessfully for mayor of Memphis in 1967, his "real fight" was with the city's black community. His effort, he said, was undermined by Negroes "who felt that a black man had a nerve trying to be mayor," and by black militants who wanted to boycott the entire election. In Richmond, Va., two Negro councilmen were defeated for reelection when the black leadership sup-



S. H. RINGO—VIRGINIAN PILOT

RIDDICK



DONALDSON—LEVITON-ATLANTA

COLLINS



PHIL KILLIAN

CHILDS

*Agents of liberation and redemption.*

**RACES**

**The Other Half of the Battle**

When Mrs. Geneva Collins took office as Chancery Clerk in Mississippi's Claiborne County, the two-member white staff quit. Mrs. Collins is black. Dan Nixon, a Negro magistrate in Brownsville, Tenn., was never informed of the date for the swearing-in ceremony after his election and had to seek out a local judge to be formally installed in office. Griffin McLaurin, a black constable in Tchula, Miss., has a problem with the white justice of the peace in his district. Says McLaurin: "When I bring someone in on a traffic charge, if it's a white man, he'll let him go. But if it's a Negro, he'll fine him."

Slowly and painfully, most of the 382 Negroes who have been elected to public offices in the South—ranging from mayor and state representative to constable and justice of the peace—have discovered that getting elected is only half the battle. Now, to help solve some of the problems facing Southern black officeholders, the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council has set up five campus service cen-

in Suffolk, Va., had a cross burned on his lawn after winning a primary. James Jolliff, a black constable in Wilkinson County, Miss., was arrested on charges of impeding and intimidating officers and was temporarily suspended from his office when he stopped Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents from searching a Negro cafeteria without a warrant.

In several Southern states local officials are paid on the "fee" system, according to the number of cases they handle. In towns where there is more than one justice of the peace, white officers can choose which J.P. they will bring minor offenders to for hearings. If one J.P. is black and the other white, the Negro official is simply ignored. William Childs, a black justice of the peace in Tuskegee, Ala., is one victim of this system. Childs charges that the white J.P. in his district averages 300 to 400 traffic cases a month, while he gets no more than 20.

\* They are located at Southern University and A. & M. College, Baton Rouge, La.; Clark College, Atlanta, Ga.; Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Miss.; Talladega College, Talladega, Ala.; and Miles College, Birmingham, Ala.

ported two white liberals to replace them. Both the Negroes had supported a measure to increase city transportation fares, and one had voted against an open-housing regulation, arguing that the council was not empowered to pass such a measure.

The number of Negro-elected officials in the South has been rising steadily since the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the surge is expected to continue. With it will grow the crisis of identity that blacks and whites must face in the South, and the problems will doubtless multiply. So, in the longer run, may the opportunities to root out discrimination. Says Dr. Samuel DuBois Cook, Negro professor of political science at Duke University: "Today, while it is true that the Negro still is part subject, it is also true that he is much nearer the start of political equality than at any previous time. He now has a foothold in the Southern political process. Negroes can help redeem the past. They can be liberating and redemptive agents. Black men, working with white men of reason, good will and a sense of justice, can largely free the South from the chains and illusions of the past."