

ITT Helped Install Free Nixon Links

By Jack Anderson

About the same time that International Telephone and Telegraph was pulling strings to settle its antitrust troubles, a subsidiary helped to install a free golf course at President Nixon's San Clemente estate.

The picturesque presidential links, located along the cliff overlooking the Pacific within an iron shot of the Nixon beach house, was constructed by a group which called itself "Golfing Friends of the President." The ITT subsidiary, Scott Lawn Products Company of Marysville, Ohio, provided the seed, fertilizers and gardening work free of charge.

For their selfless efforts, the President's "golfing friends" were rewarded with a party at the opening of the links. The President presented each contributor with a royal blue windbreaker emblazoned with the presidential seal. He also posed for pictures with his golfing pals and then autographed the prints.

The free golfing green coincided closely with the \$400,000 pledge that ITT offered toward financing the Republican convention. This was linked by the famous Dita Beard memo

to the settling of ITT's antitrust problems.

Both the Western White House and Scott Lawn Products acknowledged to us that the free work had been done but never responded to our specific questions.

Footnote: We reported last Oct. 3 that the taxpayers also helped to renovate the President's old Spanish villa at San Clemente. Specifically, we mentioned a \$13,500 outlay for a new heating system. The government has now acknowledged that more than \$1 million was spent on the San Clemente home out of the public till, including a \$13,500 furnace, a \$2,329 flagpole, \$1,995 septic tank, \$621 ice maker and \$4,800 for den furniture.

AID Needs Cash

A \$50 million payoff by the United States to South Vietnam, intended to induce President Thieu "to go along" with the Vietnam peace agreement, has left the foreign aid program short of funds.

This is revealed in a confidential House Foreign Affairs Committee memorandum, which recounts a conversation with State Department official Harvey Wellman.

The memo, written by staff

aide John J. Brady Jr. quotes Wellman as saying AID didn't have enough money to contribute a promised \$4 million to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

"One reason that no funds are available for the U.N. in fiscal 1973," states the memo, "is that, as a result of the recent talks between (Henry) Kissinger and the North Vietnamese, the U.S. promised \$50 million to the South Vietnamese to get them to go along. This depleted AID development loan funds."

Confronted with the document, Brady said: "There was only one copy of that memorandum. How did you get a copy?" But he nevertheless verified its authenticity.

Wellman told us he couldn't remember mentioning the Vietnam loan, though Brady recalled it. Both men agree on the rest of the document's contents.

One key passage states that the State Department "is unhappy about this attitude of AID, claiming that the U.N. fund does not have sufficient funds to start new programs in Burma, Afghanistan and Pakistan. For the first time, Burma has indicated a willingness to cooperate with the

U.N., and State would like to see the program get started.

The American commitment to the fund is evident, despite its low priority. "The United States is programming an additional \$5 million for the U.N. fund in fiscal 1974," the memo states. "If the fiscal 1973 payment is delayed, the U.S. 1974 contribution could be as much as \$9 million."

AID did a rapid reversal after we began asking questions and quickly scraped together \$4 million to fight drug abuse.