

On Nixon's shrubs

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Washington

The U.S. government spent \$72,000 to repair damage to President Nixon's grounds and property at his vacation home in New Mexico during the time of the Watergate federal probe.

This amount, which was the total of all work done, was known to the White House, but it could not be proved yesterday.

At the same time, the government spent \$100,000 to repair damage to the grounds and landscaping system at the Nixon residence in New Mexico, including the removal of trees that were damaged by lightning. These were done under "security" reasons.

The \$72,000 figure was supplied yesterday by James A. Angelo, spokesman for the GSA. He said the work was done by the GSA's Office of Public Works, which is responsible for the grounds of the White House and other buildings owned by the government. Angelo said he had no information on the reason for the damage or the cost of the repair work.

GSA spokesman Jerry Angelo supplied the figures for the first time yesterday after the interview ended.

According to Sampson, the sizable, federally-financed landscaping operations on the Nixon grounds were necessary to repair damage done by workers who had

been working on the grounds. Sampson then asked if there were any records of the damage to the Nixon grounds. He was told to leave the room while the records were checked. When he returned, he was told that no records had been kept there. Sampson replied: "There were two kinds of records — those relating to security, which could not be made public, and those relating to the President's private affairs." "I can't say more than that," he added. "In other words, there are two kinds of records — those we can't see, and those we can't say."

Asked if he could say more, Sampson: "That's all I can say."

When asked in the interview, Sampson was asked to discuss the cost of government landscaping on the Nixon estate. He refused to do so, saying: "Anything that involves the security of the President, we're not going to reveal. Every piece of information we reveal, it will give away a security weakness. Every little piece of information, no matter how small, threatens the security of the President."

It was then that the Secret Service official conceded that there was a "security" reason for withholding the information, and Sampson was maneuvered into executing an about-face.

Newsday Service

Korean Charges

Seoul

North Korea has renewed charges that the U.S. provoked the 1950-53 Korean war, the United Press news agency said yesterday.

United Press