

White House Denies Use Of Funds To Buy House

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House described as “a total fabrication” Monday a newspaper story saying Senate investigators believe President Nixon may have used leftover 1968 campaign funds to buy his California estate.

“It is a totally false and malicious report,” press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said.

The Santa Ana Register quoted unidentified investigators for the Senate Watergate committee as saying they believe Nixon may have used \$1 million in unreported funds left from his 1968 presidential campaign to purchase the estate at San Clemente.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin, D-N.C., chairman of the special committee, said of the report: “I never heard about it before you mentioned it.” Staff lawyers also said they had no such report.

About an hour after the report moved on Associated Press wires, Ziegler summoned reporters to his office and said contacts with members of the Senate investigating committee indicated its staff “has absolutely no information to support this story.”

An AP reporter had gone to deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren well in advance of AP movement of the story to seek comment. Warren urged that the story not be disseminated until the White House had a chance to prepare a reply.

“It is incredible that I even have to issue a denial of a story such as this,” Ziegler said. “It’s incredible that a story ran

on a national wire service” without the White House having an opportunity to comment on it.

The White House spokesman said Nixon, perhaps more than most presidents, has repeatedly provided “a complete accounting of his holdings and assets” and said details of the purchase of the San Clemente home had been spelled out by the White House at the time.

Reminded that Orange County land and tax records list the property in the name of Title Insurance and Trust Co. of Los Angeles, Ziegler was asked if the White House was prepared to spell out the terms of the actual ownership.

He said he hoped to be able to provide a full account in the near future, perhaps as early as Tuesday.

The Santa Ana, 2nd graf, Santa Ana date, deleting 4th graf: The White House ... Comment.

LOST CONNECTIONS

Kenya’s Lake Rudolf, nearly 155 miles long and 35 miles wide, was a far vaster body of water some 10,000 years ago when it apparently connected with the Nile River. Nile perch, weighing up to 200 pounds, are still caught in the lake.