

# Nixon's Ferry Ride Here Cost \$10,000

The 45 minutes President Nixon spent on the Golden Gate Ferry when he was in San Francisco Sept. 5 cost the Golden Gate Bridge District \$10,000.

Several days before the visit, White House aides told ferry transit manager Stanley Kowleski which parts of the ferryboat had to be painted so the President would have a good backdrop for photographs.

Test runs from Fort Point contributed to the cost because they had to be made on overtime so as not to interfere with regular commuter ferry service, Kowleski told The Examiner.

#### New Carpeting

The bridge district had to buy new ferry carpeting which is now being used at the district's administrative offices at the toll plaza.

Since the ferry does not operate at all from Fort Point, bridge workers had to ready a gangway there—all the work done during the Labor Day weekend and costing the district double time in wages.

One of the smallest costs of the visit was \$400 for a luncheon in honor of the President's Citizens Advisory Council for Environmental Quality.

#### Council Meeting

The council, headed by Laurance Rockefeller, had a meeting with Nixon aboard the Golden Gate Ferry.

Was the \$10,000 cost worth the presidential visit?

The bridge district, of course, had no choice — it couldn't have turned down the visit, especially since the Urban Mass Transit Administration is paying for the

district's new bus system and for three new ferryboats going out to bid.

But the publicity for the Golden Gate Bridge and its new transit operations was tremendous, just looking at the world-wide press clippings in General Manager Dale Luehring's office.

Kowleski, however, had a gripe yesterday when the cost was revealed. He didn't like the \$10,000 being charged to his ferry transit budget. He'd like to see it charged to the bridge's administrative budget.

Included in SFChronicle story, 11 Nov 72: "In addition, the district chartered a boat from Harbor Tours, Inc. to carry on its regular ferry services while the presidential visit was taking place.... The charter cost \$1500." Nixon's visit was →

to "dedicate" the Golden Gate National Recreational Area,  
at the time not yet approved by Congress.