

Hickel Faults Nixon on Watergate

by Wallace Turner

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[Walter J. Hickel, the former Alaska Governor and first Secretary of Interior under President Nixon, until he was fired in November 1970 after criticizing the bombing of Cambodia and raising questions about the moral tone of the Administration, said in an interview] that he had been bothered by reports of heavy spending of public funds to improve the Nixon properties at San Clemente, Calif., and Key Biscayne, Fla., for reasons of security.

He said he might feel differently if he knew "all the national security reasons." He added, "But it doesn't appear to me that some of those things would be in the national security interest. I mean \$180,000 or so for rewiring a house. Maybe it shouldn't have been bought if it's that big a risk. It bothers me. I don't have an answer."

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Mr. Hickel, who is 63 years old and is a self-made millionaire, said of President Nixon's views on personal wealth, "He always idolized people with wealth and I thought that was a weakness."

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by Marquis Childs

..... And it is not alone Watergate. The disclosures about the chiseling on the Nixon private homes at San Clemente and Key Biscayne touch the average citizen struggling to keep up his mortgage payments and maybe fix up his backyard.