

\$10 Million Spent on Nixon Homes

Washington

About \$10 million in federal funds has been spent since 1969 for security and communications installations and other projects at President Nixon's San Clemente and Key Biscayne compounds, officials said yesterday.

As the administration gave its fullest accounting yet of the costs of protecting and supporting the First Family's homes and offices outside of Washington, the White House promised that Mr. Nixon will reveal within a month all details of his purchase of California and Florida residences.

In an apparent reference to the impact of the Watergate scandal, General Services Administrator Arthur Sampson said the disclosures are being made because of "the atmosphere that exists today government-wide."

Sampson said much of the data on the projects was kept secret "because it would compromise the security of the President."

"Putting these figures in front of you is compromising his security," he said, gesturing toward large charts and aerial photographs of the President's California home. "Anyone who wants to go in and do something to the President now has more information than he has had before."

Back Page Col. 1

From Page 1

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SECRECY

These announcements yesterday stripped much of the secrecy from taxpayer-financed projects at Mr. Nixon's out-of-town homes

and offices and the residences of his daughters:

- Deputy White House press secretary Gerald Warren said more than \$2 million had been spent for communications at Key Biscayne, Fla., about \$3.7 million for similar equipment at San Clemente, Calif., and an additional \$160,000 for communications equipment in the Bahama Islands where Mr. Nixon sometimes vacations. These previously secret expenditures came from military funds, he said.

- Sampson said the GSA has spent \$3.7 million at the President's residences and offices in Key Biscayne and San Clemente. This included \$1.7 million for the San Clemente office complex. All but a few of the projects were requested by the Secret Service for the President's protection, Sampson said.

- The Secret Service said that, in addition to the work financed by the GSA, it had

spent "less than \$300,000" from its own funds at homes and offices of the First Family outside of Washington.

Officials said comparable figures for past Presidents are not now available.

But Sampson said the GSA is digging through its files and will provide a congressional committee by September a report on similar projects during the Johnson and Kennedy administrations.

AUDIT

Warren said Mr. Nixon had ordered a private auditing firm to prepare "a complete, detailed accounting of the acquisition of the homes and property" in San Clemente and Key Biscayne.

Sampson, at a news conference, said a decision was made four years ago by White House, Secret Service and GSA officials "to reveal nothing" about the government-financed work at San Clemente and Key Biscayne.

But under the pressure of inquiries from the media and Congress, he said it was decided to make a full accounting and "take the mystery out of San Clemente and Key Biscayne."

'COINCIDENTAL'

In releasing a 70-page list of GSA expenditures, Sampson said a few of the projects

resulted in improvements to the President's private property. He said this was "coincidental and unavoidable" and that the detailed report should "clear up in the minds of the American public that the President personally gained."

The total Federal funds actually spent on the President's California home itself has been \$68,148, less than 2 per cent of the total \$3.7 million San Clemente expenditure, Sampson said.

At Key Biscayne, he said, about 10 per cent of all GSA expenditures — or \$137,482 — has been spent on the President's two homes there. Virtually all of this, he said, was for bullet-resistant glass doors and windows.

"The only item not requested by the Secret Service at the Key Biscayne homes was a flag pole," Sampson said.

"This was installed at the initiation of the President's military aides, who considered it desirable for ceremonial purposes."

At San Clemente, he added,

"GSA also installed a flag pole and purchased furniture for the office which the President maintains at his home. Both items are owned by the Federal Government and will be reclaimed when no longer needed."

In addition to the \$68,000 which Sampson said was spent within Mr. Nixon's home for such projects as a new heating system and fire sprinklers, he said another \$635,000 was spent on grounds around the home for lighting and alarm systems, landscaping, walls and fences.

At Key Biscayne, he said, major expenditures included \$152,000 for security lights and alarms, \$131,000 for construction of a command post and \$75,000 for walls, fences and screening.

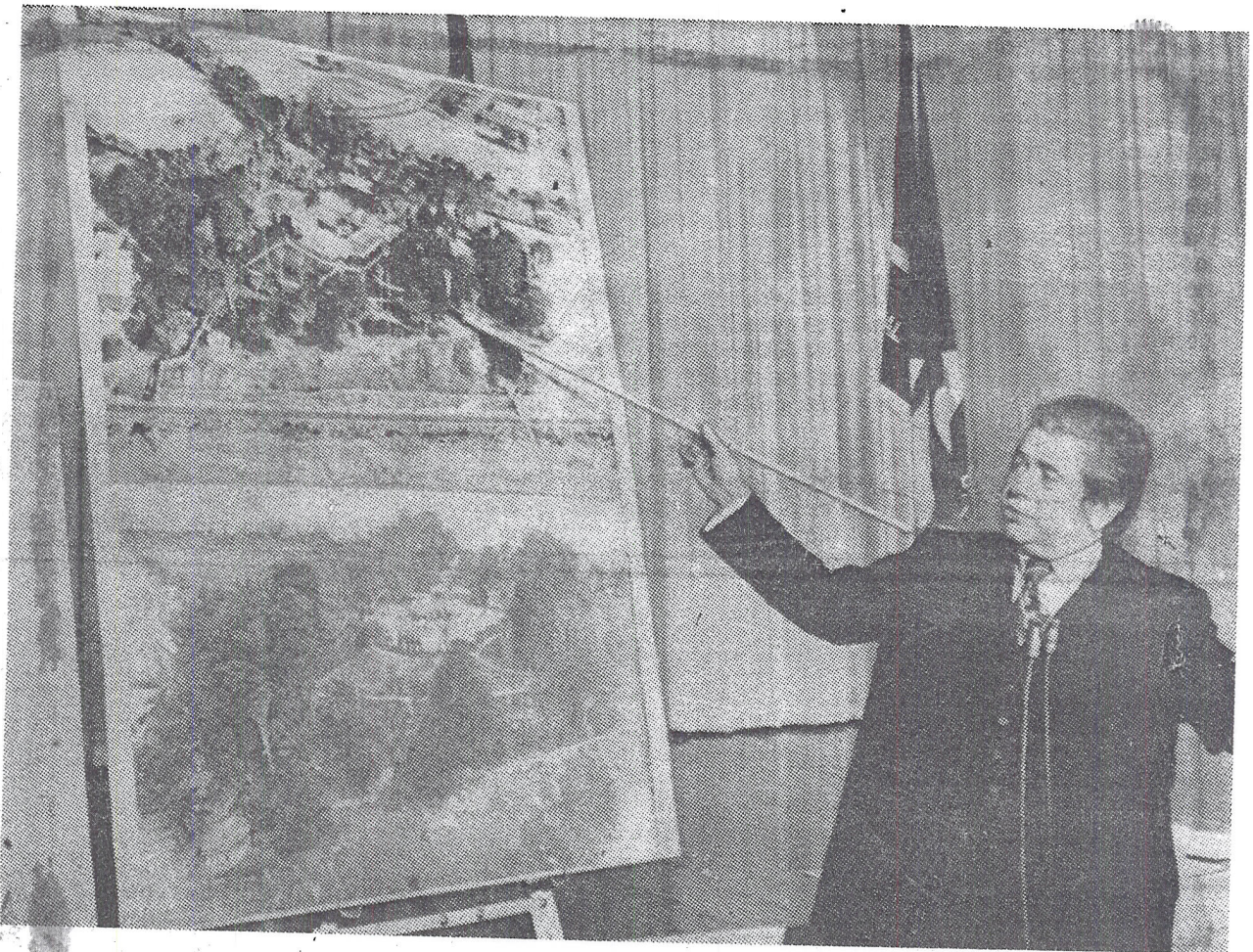
ISLAND

Sampson reported that \$16,000 had been spent by GSA on Grand Cay, an island in the Bahamas owned by industrialist Robert Abplanalp, which Mr. Nixon often visits. Sampson said Abplanalp himself has spent more than \$1 million for construction of a helipad, road improvements and modification of his home, "making them more suitable for the

President's use."

Since Mr. Nixon took office, Sampson reported the GSA also has spent about \$50,000 at five privately owned apartments and houses occupied at various times by the President's daughters, Julie Eisenhower and Tricia Cox, in Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Virginia and Florida. All of this work, he said, was requested by the Secret Service.

Associated Press



AP Wirephoto

A chief Arthur Sampson used a photo of the San Clemente estate to point out the improvements