WXPost AUG 21 '72 AUG 21 '72

Kalmbach Still Does Some Legal Work for the President

By Kenneth Reich
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 20—Contrary to the widespread impression, Herbert W. Kalmbach is continuing to do some legal work for President Nixon, the Los Angeles Times has learned.

The Los Angeles and Newport Beach, Calif. law firm of Kalmbach, Demarco, Knapp and Chillingworth continues to perform a wide variety of West Coast tasks for the President, his wife, their daughters and their daughters' husbands.

Most of this work is being performed by one of Kalmbach's partners in the firm, Frank Demarco Jr., although Kalmbach is still active in some matters.

Just this week, Demarco informed Orange County assessor's office that he had been designated to represent him in inquiries being made by the assessor's office on the President's San Clemente estate.

Also, Kalmbach and Demarco are reportedly playing key roles in drafting a proposed White House statement designed to case suspicions about the manner in which the President acquired the estate. In 1969, Kalmbach and his firm did all the legal work in negotiating for and acquiring the property.

Informed sources have told The Los Angeles Times that when the statement is released sometime in the next few days, copies of papers relating to the trust that controls the property will be made public.

Kalmbach, a 51-year-old Newport Beach lawyer, has long performed a variety of legal and other services for Mr. Nixon. In the 1968 and 1972 presidential campaigns, he was one of Mr. Nixon's most important fund raisers. He personally oversaw the improvements on the San Clemente property.

After the Watergate disclosures began, Kalmbach was linked to collections of money paid to the Watergate burglary defendants. Testifying in July before the Senate Watergate Committee Kalmbach denied having knowingly engaged in improprieties, although he said he believed he had been "used" by some senior members of the White House staff in collecting money for the seven convicted Watergate defendants.

But in the meantime, the impression had been allowed to spread that Kalmbach was no longer the President's attorney.

Initial reports of this arose in a May 1 exchange between reporters and White House

[illegible] Kalmbach [illegible] work for the President." [illegible]

Despite this, the Los Angeles Times in subsequent inquiries here and in Washington continued that Kalmbach is doing such work, particularly in relation to the upcoming San Clemente statement.

Sources point out that it is difficult to make a hard and fast distinction between the Kalmbach firm and Kalmbach. He is naturally involved in the work of the firm and he knows more about San Clemente than anyone else in the firm.

In addition to legal work involving the San Clemente estate (bills for private work done on the estate continue to be paid through the Kalmbach firm), the firm is also handling the President's personal tax work in coordination with his accountant.