

AIDE FEARS NIXON IS ALMOST 'BROKE'

Chief Fiscal Adviser Cites Impending Legal Bills

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 30 (UPI) —Richard M. Nixon's money problems have left him almost broke, according to the former President's chief financial adviser.

Dean Butler, the aide, said yesterday it would take at least until the end of the year to get a grip on Mr. Nixon's economic difficulties, and he is worried that the legal bills alone could mount to half a million dollars, depending on court actions against him.

"I would expect that it isn't too much of an exaggeration" to say Mr. Nixon is broke, Mr. Butler told The Los Angeles Times in an interview.

"We won't say he's broke in the sense of you and I being broke, but all you have to do is look at his most recent financial statement and the payments he has had to make since then to know there is a money problem," said Mr. Butler, who is a lawyer.

"Certainly his financial picture is uncertain and unclear," Mr. Butler said, and there is the problem of "what to do about his various properties," referring to the Nixon estates at San Clemente, Calif.; and Key Bis-

cayne, Fla." Mr. Nixon was unable to make a mortgage "balloon payment" of more than \$100,000 that fell due last month on the San Clemente estate, and was given an extension.

Total in Back Taxes

His finances were battered by a finding that he owed more than \$457,000 in back Federal income taxes and \$5,000 in California state taxes.

Mr. Butler said he was worried about the expense to Mr. Nixon of "crank lawsuits."

He was speaking less than 24 hours after Mr. Nixon was served with two subpoenas, one to testify at the Watergate cover-up trial and the other to give a deposition in a Charlotte, N.C., civil suit.

Mr. Nixon's potential legal bills cannot be guessed, Mr. Butler said. "I don't know whether \$100,000 would touch it. I don't know whether \$500,000 will."

Mr. Butler said he expected to see Mr. Nixon "in the next week or so" for a review of his financial problems, adding, "My expectation is that the decisions in this area will be made by him."

Mr. Butler said he was not including in his estimates the speculation about the worth of Mr. Nixon's memoirs, should he put them on the market.

Scott Meredith, a New York literary agent, said yesterday that there was no question that he could get \$2-million for the book and magazine rights, but a Nixon spokesman denied there had been any contact with him.

"No one has been authorized to contact Scott Meredith in any way," the Nixon aide said. "If and when the President does decide to write his memoirs, Scott Meredith will not be his agent."