

House OKs Curbs On Nixon's Funds

Washington

The House agreed yesterday to bar further "security" improvements on President Nixon's private homes at Key Biscayne and San Clemente without specific congressional approval.

The House also agreed to wipe out a traditional \$1.5 million "special projects" White House fund which the Nixon administration used to pay the \$100-a-day consulting fee to E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the convicted

Watergate conspirators.

As passed by voice vote and sent to the Senate, a \$4.8 billion appropriations bill to finance the White House, Postal Service and Treasury held little but bad news for the President.

STAFF

Among other things, the bill would wipe out Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's 30-member staff in the Executive Office Building — a staff that administers special functions assigned to the vice president by the President.

The bill also would take away the President's power to set special per diem rates for his appointees and require him to account for funds spent for entertainment.

The crackdown on "security" improvements at the President's private homes and the wiping out of the "special projects" fund reflected a growing concern within congress that it had not adequately monitored presidential expenditures in past years.

SPENT

Officials of the General Services Administration, at a hearing in late June by a House Appropriations subcommittee, conceded that \$1,883,889.84 had been spent by the government on the Key Biscayne and San Clemente homes, upon the advice of the Secret Service.

The officials further said at that time that the government had spent \$124,587.47 in "protective costs" on Agnew's home in suburban Washington, also at the request of the secret service.

Among the Government expenditures at the Nixon homes were heating systems, structural alterations, plumbing, sewer systems and landscaping. Also included were numerous items, including garden implements, a swimming pool cleaner, washing machines and one white 40-foot fiberglass flagpole with swivel six-inch ball (gold leaf) and nylon halyards (costing \$587).

APPROVAL

The appropriations bill passed yesterday would require prior approval of the House and Senate committees on appropriations before Government funds could be spent on "such fencing, lighting, guard booths and other facilities on private or other property not in Government ownership or control as may be appropriate to enable the Secret Service to perform its protective function."

In recommending the elimination of the "special projects" fund—provided to leaders of the House Appropriations Committee said they were motivated solely by the refusal of the Bureau of Management and Budget to disclose how the money was spent.

But from other sources within the committee, it was learned that a preliminary General Accounting Office report indicated that some of the "special projects" money was used in 1971 and 1972 to pay travel bills, consulting fees and parts of salaries for a number of regular White House staff members.

These included Hunt and Tom Charles Huston, drafter of a "covert operation" plan

to deal with national security leaks, such as release of the Pentagon Papers on U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia.

Frederic V. Malek, deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, refused in May to tell the House appropriations subcommittee that handles White House allocations whether some of the "special projects" money was used to finance the so-called White House "Plumbers" investigating security leaks.

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