

# Nixon Home Spending Data Pledged

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A House investigations committee voted without dissent yesterday to use subpoena powers, if necessary, to obtain records of government spending to improve President Nixon's homes in Florida and California.

However, the subpoena authorization may turn out to be a hollow threat, because shortly before its 37-to-0 vote, the committee received written White House assurances that it would hand over all documents on improvements to the presidential compounds.

In a letter to the House Government Operations Committee, presidential adviser Bryce N. Harlow said Mr. Nixon is "determined that there be no impediment of any kind, insofar as the executive branch is concerned."

Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.) chairman of the House Government Activities Subcommittee, said he talked with Harlow and had been promised that all records of improvements to Mr. Nixon's properties in Key Biscayne and San Clemente will be turned over on Monday.

Having received those assurances, the committee then turned to an occasionally macabre discussion of whether it is more economical to spend a few million dollars on security improvements to presidential homes than it is to hold state funerals for assassinated Presidents.

Rep. Clarence J. Brown (R-Ohio) noted that the chairman of another House oversight subcommittee, Rep. Tom Steed (D-Okla.), estimated last month that the state funeral for President Kennedy cost approximately \$400 million, compared to the reported federal outlay of \$3.5 million for security improvements for Mr. Nixon's homes.

"You have to balance things out," said Brown, adding that he has asked the General Accounting Office to verify the \$400 million figure.

Rep. John H. Buchanan (R-Ala.) agreed, saying, "It is, of course, a very expensive thing to lose a President."

Buchanan said he thinks the House investigation of San Clemente and Key Biscayne spending will vindicate the White House. "It is understandable that those charged with the protection of the President leave no stone unturned," Buchanan said.

Steed's \$400 million estimate for President Kennedy's funeral included salaries for thousands of federal employees who were given time off, according to a staff member of the House Treasury-Post Office Appropriations Subcommittee. The time off was estimated to cost \$150 million a day.

The subcommittee, of which Steed is chairman, conducted hearings last month into San Clemente and Key Biscayne spending. It estimated that \$2 million had been spent on the two compounds.

As a result of yesterday's vote, the Government Activities Subcommittee was given the power to issue subpoenas to 13 officials of various government agencies.

They include: Arthur F. Sampson, administrator of the General Services Administration; Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger, Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton, Transportation Secretary Claude S. Brinegar and Secret Service Director James J. Rowley.

Despite the White House assurances of cooperation, the full committee, which includes 18 Republicans, voted in pro forma fashion to authorize the subpoena. Some members termed the measure a protective one which could be invoked automatically in the event the White House reneges on its promise.

"We won't have to use the subpoenas if there is full cooperation. However, often, when you have a subpoena, you get full cooperation," observed Brooks.

Brooks said yesterday that his subcommittee will begin hearings into the presidential house improvement controversy sometime after the August recess.

On Tuesday, Brooks had accused the White House of "arrogant contempt" because, he said, presidential assistants had ordered the GSA to withhold all spending records until the administration released a comprehensive statement in a few days.

The administration twice previously has issued accountings for expenditures at Mr. Nixon's homes. The first statement listed outlays at \$39,000 and the second revised the figure upward to \$1.9 million.

## Hearings Today On Channel 7

Gen. Vernon E. Walters, deputy director of the CIA, is scheduled to testify today when the Senate Watergate committee resumes its hearings at 9:30 a.m.

Channel 7 (ABC-WMAL) will televise the hearings live; channel 26 (WETA) will rebroadcast the hearings at 8 p.m.