

People in Class Houses Shouldn't Throw Bones

By Art Buchwald

President Richard Nixon is preparing to disclose that he and his wife will leave their home at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, D.C., to the American people.

The house, known as "The White House," is one of the largest in Washington and is considered one of the choice properties in the city.

A spokesman for the First Family said, "Although the President and Mrs. Nixon have not lived in it much, the White House has great sentimental value for them. By leaving it to the American people, the President hopes to take care of all the criticism leveled at him for the taxpayers' money he spent on his homes in Key Biscayne and San Clemente.

"The President's lawyers are now drawing up the papers which will provide that the Nixons can live there for three more years before turning it over to the government. There is some question in Congress as to whether this is legally possible."

The President made his decision to donate the White House to the American people long before the energy crisis, according to the spokesman, and he rejected media reports that the reason the Nixons are giving the White House to the nation is that it is too hard to heat.

The spokesman said also that President Nixon intends to include in the donation his entire tape collection which is considered one of the best in the entire land. These tapes, made over a five-year period, have been the envy of collectors everywhere and while everyone from Archibald Cox to Judge Sirica has tried to acquire them, the Nixons feel they should stay in the White House where they belong.

The spokesman said that by donating their home at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., the Nixons were putting to rest unfounded rumors that Bebe Rebozo and Howard Hughes planned to develop the property for a 40-story hotel and a possible gambling casino.

"It's true," he said, "that plans were drawn up for such a project, but the President rejected them when Mr. Hughes insisted that the Capitol be included in the deal."

Originally, the Nixons had planned to leave the White House to the Spiro Agnews but something happened, no one knows exactly what, and the Agnews were cut out of the will.

It was rumored that the Jerry Fords might sublease the White House in 1974, but the spokesman denied this.

"The President has no plans to rent the house to anyone. For one thing, he has been informed by his lawyers that should he move out he would have to pay state income taxes in California.

"Several people have offered to buy the White House, including Nelson Rockefeller, Ronald Reagan, John Connally and Teddy Kennedy, but the Nixons have turned down their offers. The price they offered was not even in the ball park, considering all the improvements that have been made."

After the announcement was made, reporters checked with the Department of Interior to ask them what they intended to do with the property. An official said, "We're not certain. For the last five years it's been run like Disneyland, and we'd like to keep the same flavor if we can. The White House should be a fun place for the American people, where they can amuse themselves and forget about the cares of the world."