

House Study

Of Nixon's
Residences

Washington

A House committee, completing a year long study of public spending on President Nixon's private residences, proposed yesterday that Congress limit government spending on presidential homes.

Stopping short of criticizing the administration a compromise report adopted by the Government Operations Committee blamed the Secret Service and the General Services Administration for excessive spending on the homes.

The report, adopted 36 to 0 with two members abstaining, detailed \$17.1 million spent on Nixon residences in San Clemente and Key Biscayne, Fla., and homes he used including the Maryland residence of his daughter Julie and the Bahamas estate of his friends Robert Abplanalp.

The report was a compromise version of one originally approved on partisan lines by the Government

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Services Subcommittee which conducted the survey. The original report was severely critical of administration aides who ordered major government expenditures on the homes.

The final report was not made public, but subcommittee chairman Jack Brooks (Dem-Tex.), outlined the findings for the committee.

The major proposal, Brooks said, is to limit government expenditures for executive support facilities, such as separate office buildings, to only one private presidential residence. This would not diminish protection of the President, Brooks said.

Committee sources said one recommendation not released by Brooks was that the government attempt to recover "any improper expenditures" made on Mr. Nixon's homes. The expenditures were not detailed.

Sources said this was a "watered down" version of the original proposal which directed government agen-

cies to bill Mr. Nixon for inappropriate expenditures to improve his properties. That recommendation was removed when Republican members objected, sources said.

Brooks acknowledged that "many objections" for minority members had been taken into consideration in the final report.

"The GSA spent extensive amounts for items not requested by the Secret Service," Brooks said. "Just for one example the taxpayers paid for a boundary survey of the San Clemente property ordered by the President's personal lawyers."

Brooks said the committee recommended the Secret Service and GSA establish more specific guidelines for work on presidential properties to guard against "poor over-all management."

Representative John Buchanan of Alabama joined fellow Republicans in saying the report accurately concludes that excessive security spending — some of it for home items procured by Mr. Nixon's aides rather than

proper agencies — should be controlled.

But Buchanan announced he would abstain from voting for the report because he said the \$17.1 million figure supports what he called a false public impression from news reports that this much was spent to fix up Mr. Nixon's homes.

"That is a regrettable and damnable lie," Buchanan said.

He said \$205,000 was spent directly on the three homes and another \$1.16 million on their grounds.

Buchanan later told newsmen that the overwhelming Republican vote for the findings of excessive spending should not damage Mr. Nixon.

"But in view of the way things have been going," he said, "yes, I think it may do him some damage."

The other committee member present but not voting was Representative Andrew J. Hinshaw (Rep-Newport Beach). He did not say why he abstained.

A.P. & U.P.