

JUN 25 1974

Byrd Assails Copter Gift To Sadat

SFChronicle

Washington

Senator Robert C. Byrd (Dem.-W. Va.) said yesterday that President Nixon's gift of a \$2 million military helicopter to the President of Egypt represents a lapse of judgment and a "cavalier use" of tax dollars.

"The question that comes immediately to mind is the obvious one: Was this helicopter, assigned by the military to Mr. Nixon, his to give away to the head of a foreign government?"

"By what authority did the President act?"

Byrd, the assistant Senate Democratic leader, said he is sure "lavish and uncalled-for gifts" will meet with wide public disapproval.

"Such action by Mr. Nixon at this time seems to me to constitute another lapse in good judgment," Byrd said.

Nixon took the helicopter with him on his recent trip to the Middle East and gave it to President Anwar Sadat while in Egypt.

It is a VIP version of the military craft used by most of the armed services.

Associated Press