

# Nixon Gift of Copter 'Cavalier,' Byrd Says

Associated Press

Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) says President Nixon's gift of a \$2 million helicopter to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat amounts to a "cavalier use" of tax dollars.

"The practice of foreign relations is at best a delicate art, and it occurs to me that efforts to purchase friendship in such a manner are questionable on their face," Byrd said Monday.

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

"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?" Byrd asked.

Byrd, the assistant Senate Democratic leader, said "such action by Mr. Nixon at this time seems to me to constitute another lapse in good judgment." He called it

"symptomatic of a proprietary concept of the American presidency that is at variance with the view of most Americans that it should be a trusteeship."