

# President Asks \$850,000 For Nixon for Expenses

## Request to Congress Covers Transition and Pension Costs Until June 30— More Expenditures Expected

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By PHILIP SHABECOFF AUG 30 1974

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 29— President Ford asked Congress today to appropriate \$850,000 for former President Richard M. Nixon to cover the Presidential transition, his pension and other expenses between now and next June 30.

However, public expenditures in support of Mr. Nixon will be substantially higher than this \$850,000, Administration officials said.

The Nixon office complex outside the gates of his estate in San Clemente, Calif., will be maintained by the public purse indefinitely, according to the administrator of the General Services Administration, Arthur F. Sampson.

Mr. Sampson also said in an interview that Mr. Nixon was entitled to the services of as many Federal employees as he asked for to help him during a six-month transition period.

Also, the Secret Service will continue to guard the former President. None of these expenses are included in the \$850,000 requested by President Ford today.

Of the \$850,000, \$450,000 is for expenses related to the transition period, which lasts six months starting with the day of Mr. Nixon's resignation on Aug. 9. This allocation is fixed by law in the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, which provides \$900,000 for the transition between administrations, half of it to go to the incoming and half to the outgoing President.

Mr. Ford will not receive the incoming President's allocation because he moved directly into the Presidency without a post-election interval, according to White House spokesmen.

One staff official in the White House press office said that the \$450,000 was being provided to Mr. Nixon to help him to make "an orderly transition" and would cover such things as office and communication equipment and salaries for personnel not detailed from

the Government.

The remaining \$400,000 will be provided to Mr. Nixon under

Continued on Page 12, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

the Former President's Act. Of this amount, \$55,000 is for Mr. Nixon's pension of \$60,000 per year prorated for the 11 months running from August, 1974, through June, 1975.

In addition, \$96,000 is required by statute to be made available to former Presidents for staff salaries. The press office official said that this money could be used by Mr. Nixon to hire lawyers if he chose to do so.

The rest, a total of \$249,000, was worked out by the General Services Administration, reportedly in consultation with Mr. Nixon, as the amount needed to cover the expenses incurred by Mr. Nixon as a former President.

Mr. Sampson itemized the projected expenses as follows:

- \$40,000 for travel.
- \$8,000 for personal benefits such as health insurance.
- \$5,000 for office supplies.
- \$65,000 for furnishings and office supplies.
- \$21,000 for communications.
- \$10,000 for printing.
- \$100,000 for "miscellaneous."

Earlier this year, the House Government Activities Subcommittee adopted a report that said a total of \$17-million had been spent in connection with Mr. Nixon's use of his private estates in Key Biscayne, Fla., and San Clemente while he was President.

\* SEE SFC 30 AUG.

Much of this amount reflected such things as security and personnel costs. But a substantial amount was spent on communications and office equipment, furnishings and capital improvements to the properties, according to the report.

Mr. Sampson indicated that he did not believe the Federal Government would be able to recover much of the property installed while Mr. Nixon was President. He suggested that it would cost more for the Government to remove much of the property than to leave it where it was.

However, he said that the new equipment and furnishings and other allowances now being requested for Mr. Nixon would meet the different needs of a former President.

As an example, he said the former President would need mailing equipment and an assistant to deal with the correspondence that formerly was taken care of by the White House staff.

Mr. Nixon has already received more than 300,000 pieces of mail since resigning as President, Mr. Sampson reported.

The request for \$21,000 for communications is intended to pay for telephone calls, not to install new equipment, Mr. Sampson said. As for the \$100,

000 miscellaneous request, that is to meet "contingencies," such as security beyond that provided by the Secret Service, he said.

There is no limit to the amount of money that may be requested to pay the expenses of a former President under the Former President's Act. But Mr. Sampson said that he did not think Mr. Nixon would seek funds beyond what was requested today.

He said that the amount was arrived at by putting together a composite of the spending of other former Presidents. However, he was unable to provide equivalent figures for President Lyndon B. Johnson or other former Presidents.

President Johnson, he said, spent \$370,000 of the \$450,000 transition allocation. But Mr. Sampson did not have the amounts allocated under the Former Presidents Act.

The discussion of how the funds for Mr. Nixon would be used centered on the former President's San Clemente estate, because it was assumed by the G.S.A. that Mr. Nixon would make his home and maintain his office there.

Meanwhile, however, the Secret Service and Coast Guard are continuing their security precautions around Mr. Nixon's other estate at Key Biscayne, Fla.