

Costly Nixon Tape Vault

Washington

Former President Nixon wants \$110,000 to build a special vault and hire five guards to protect the controversial tape recordings and documents of his administration, a Senate appropriations subcommittee learned yesterday.

Joseph P. Montoya, (Dem-N.M.), the subcommittee chairman said Nixon aides employed a high-pressure "snow job" to convince the government to ask for a total of \$850,000 to ease Mr. Nixon's transition to private life.

Arthur F. Sampson, head of the General Services Administration, said \$110,000 of the \$850,000 would be used to build a vault 12 miles from Mr. Nixon's San Clemente, Calif., estate to safeguard the controversial tape recordings and documents of the Nixon presidency.

Montoya and Senator Mark Hatfield, (Rep-Ore.) were openly skeptical of Sampson's justifications for the \$850,000 request.

They said that amount is more than twice as large as funds received by former President Johnson during his transition from the presidency.

Both senators said they believed the test of "bare bones" economy must be applied to the Nixon request. Hatfield said his constituents regard the amount now being sought as "an unne-



AP Wirephoto

ARTHUR SAMPSON Senators skeptical

cessary extravagance."

Sampson said Nixon aides Ronald L. Ziegler and Stephen Bull asked for the funds at a private San Clemente meeting just after Mr. Nixon resigned last month.

After hearing Sampson's testimony, Montoya said, "It appears that when you went to San Clemente, although it was not the middle of the winter, you were given a snow job.

The proposed money takes full advantage of both The Former Presidents Act of 1958 and the Presidential Transition Act of 1963.

The transition act provides a former President with more than \$450,000 for office staff and other benefits for

his first six months out of office. The former Presidents Act provides a \$60,000-a-year pension, plus office and staff expenses beginning at the end of the transition period.

Sampson said a "highly sophisticated" vault is required under terms of an agreement negotiated between the GSA and Mr. Nixon to govern access to the Nixon documents.

In addition to the vault and alarms, five guards would be hired at a cost of \$50,000 a year for the next five years, the period of the agreement, Sampson said.

He said the arrangement

was needed to safeguard the tapes and other documents that may be subpoenaed by the courts.

Montoya and Hatfield said they questioned why the Nixon tapes and documents could not be stored in a federal office building and protected from theft and tampering by the GSA's regular guard force.

They also noted that millions of dollars were spent on Mr. Nixon's San Clemente and Key Biscayne, Fla., properties during his presidency and asked why additional amounts are needed for the San Clemente

property now.

000 letters.

Sampson said the money equipment is needed, especially highspeed magnetic typewriters to allow Mr. Nixon to reply to some 350,-

Sampson said the money would not personally benefit Mr. Nixon and that none of it would pay for legal counsel for the former President.

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