

Senators on Appropriations Unit Balk at Approving \$850,000 Sought for Nixon

HOSTILITY VOICED AS HEARINGS OPEN

Montoya Terms the Request for Pension and Expenses 'Unprecedented' in Size

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 11—Senators on an appropriations subcommittee made it clear today that they would not approve the full \$850,000 that the Ford Administration has requested to pay Richard M. Nixon's pension and expenses through next June.

At the same time, it was disclosed that 13 persons, receiving salaries at an annual rate of \$340,000, are currently on the White House payroll and assigned full time to Mr. Nixon.

Senator Joseph M. Montoya, the subcommittee chairman, called the request "unprecedented in amount" and said it was "open to question as to compatibility with the historical record and with the intent of Congress."

Senator Mark O. Hatfield, the Oregon Republican, said that he would "have to be persuaded far beyond anything I've seen thus far that this is a valid request."

Senator Lawton Chiles, Democrat of Florida, said that the public would not accept and Congress would not provide "a kitty of money that the former President can use at his discretion."

The Senators' comments came the first day of hearings on the request that are being held by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

Senator Montoya released figures he had obtained from the White House showing that the persons on the White House payroll who are assigned to Mr. Nixon include Ronald L. Ziegler, Mr. Nixon's press secretary, whose annual salary is \$42,500; Raymond K. Price Jr., a speech writer, whose salary is \$40,000, and Rose Mary Woods, Mr. Nixon's secretary who gets \$36,000.

Hostility Toward Nixon
President Ford's pardon of Mr. Nixon was mentioned only peripherally at today's hearing, but the Senators' hostility to-

ward Mr. Nixon was undisguised.

They repeatedly noted that the money sought for the former President was far above what was given Lyndon B. Johnson after he left office and that the request was only a portion of the Government's expenditures for Mr. Nixon's use.

The \$850,000 does not include the \$622,000 spent by the Secret Service annually for Mr. Nixon's protection or the payment from current White House funds for the salaries of such former aides as Mr. Ziegler.

Moreover, Senator Montoya, a New Mexico Democrat, recalled that a House subcommittee had determined earlier in the year that the General Services Administration had spent \$17-million in connection with Mr. Nixon's use of his private estates in San Clemente, Calif., and Key Biscayne, Fla., during his tenure as President.

Arthur F. Sampson, administrator of the G.S.A., arrived at the hearing this morning with a new accounting of how the \$850,000 would be spent.

Changes in Itemized List

The sum was the same as the one Mr. Sampson made public last week, but an itemized listing of expenses contained several changes.

For example, whereas last week's accounting included a \$100,000 "miscellaneous" item, the new accounting reduced the contingency figure to \$26,000. But it included a new item of \$110,000 to construct, equip and guard a secure vault to hold Mr. Nixon's tape recordings and documents.

That expense, Mr. Sampson said, was a necessity under an agreement signed last week by Mr. Nixon and President Ford's legal counsel that provided for the Nixon tapes and records that might be needed in court proceedings to be kept in a vault. Under the agreement, the vault could be opened only by using two separate keys, one kept by Mr. Nixon and the other by the General Services Administration.

Mr. Sampson said that he had arrived at the \$850,000 request after meeting in San Clemente with Mr. Ziegler and other aides of the former President.

'Quite a Snow Job'

"It appears to me," Senator Montoya commented, "that when you went to San Clemente, even though it was not winter, you were given quite a snow job."

The Nixon request was made under two separate laws—the former Presidents Act of 1958 and the Presidential Transition Act of 1963.

The 1958 law was intended to provide a former President with long-term staff, pension and office expenses so that, according to Mr. Sampson, "he can maintain a creative presence as an adviser in national and international public life."

The 1963 law was designed to pay, on a one-time basis, the initial transition costs such as

those for moving, transferring papers and answering mail.

The Ford Administration asked that the appropriation

for Mr. Nixon under the two laws be combined into one appropriation.

That was done for Mr. Johnson when he left the Presidency. Mr. Johnson sought and received \$542,000 in the first 18 months after he left office, compared with the \$850,000 Mr. Nixon wants for his first 11 months out of office, compared with the \$850,000 Mr. Nixon wants for his first 11 months out of office.

Reasons for Funds

Mr. Sampson listed several reasons why Mr. Nixon needed more money than his predecessors: Mr. Nixon left office abruptly, while Mr. Johnson had nine months to prepare to leave; Mr. Johnson had crated and shipped his papers to Texas at Government expense before his term was over; Mr. Nixon will require additional staff, security and travel allowances because of his legal problems, and there has been a 25 per cent inflation in the five years since Mr. Johnson left office.

In addition to Mr. Ziegler, Mr. Price and Miss Woods, the persons on the White House payroll assigned to Mr. Nixon, along with their annual salaries, are as follows:

Franklin Gannon, \$35,300;
Stephen B. Bull, \$34,000;
Michael Sterlacci, \$28,263; Kenneth L. K. Hachigan, \$27,500;

Marjorie P. Acker, \$23,000;
Dianne Sawyer, \$21,000; Anee Grier, \$14,026; Nora Vander-sommen, \$14,457; Jeanne F. Quinlan, \$13,003, and Jo Ellen Walker, \$9,969.

Mr. Sampson said that as long as Mr. Ford was willing to keep these persons on the White payroll their salaries would not be charged to Mr. Nixon, who has sought a total allowance of \$202,000 for salaries, benefits and overtime payments for his staff.