

THE IMPERIAL EX-PRESIDENCY

One of the more intriguing questions to arise from Richard Nixon's resignation has been how much he will continue to cost the American taxpayer. So far the only certainty is that new bills keep turning up. Nevertheless, after calling on sources in the General Services Administration and in the two Congressional subcommittees holding hearings on the matter, NEWSWEEK learned that the final tally could exceed \$1.7 million for this fiscal year alone.

Some of these funds are set by law or already committed by Congress, including \$55,000 to pay Nixon's pension for the next eleven months and about \$722,000 for Secret Service protection at San Clemente and Key Biscayne. Some may be vetoed or whittled back by Congress. The San Clemente police, for instance, have asked for a \$192,000 grant to cover expenses traceable to Nixon, and President Ford has asked Congress

for \$850,000 for Nixon, including his pension and incidentals: \$110,000 for a vault for his tapes and papers, \$172,000 for office equipment, \$147,000 for communications, \$64,000 for travel, printing and miscellaneous expenses and \$302,000 for his staff.

If Nixon has to stick to that \$1.7 million budget, he will have to trim his staff; now, the payroll at his estates runs at a rate of \$447,000 or more annually in government funds covering his secretary, speechwriter, valet, maid and about fourteen gardeners and yardmen, among others.

Congress is clearly in the mood to pare back Nixon's allocations wherever possible, but some items are mandated. And staffers expect that new items will keep popping up. Nixon's top aides retain their \$40-a-day expense allowances, and last week some were trying to persuade the GSA that the government should pick up the tab for moving them to California.

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