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Transition Staff Cut Seen

# Panel May Reduce Nixon Budget

By Richard L. Lyons  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
A House Appropriations subcommittee is expected today to cut by about half the \$850-

000 requested for first-year allowances for Richard M. Nixon as a former President. The Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and Gen-

eral Government is expected to lop off an amount equal to the salaries of the 21 federal employees detailed to assist Mr. Nixon during part or all of the six-month transitional period when government aid is given to help former Presidents make the adjustment back to private life. This item totals more than \$200,000.

Also expected to be denied among other items is \$110,000 for a vault to hold Mr. Nixon's presidential records, unless the agreement giving Mr. Nixon control over access to the papers and tapes is renegotiated more in the government's favor.

While House sources were predicting cuts, General Services Administrator Arthur F. Sampson was telling the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, that transition period costs, which are \$450,000 of the \$850,000, will increase to \$683,800 unless the period in which they can be spent is stretched out to 11 months from the customary six. Lengthening the transition period would require changing the law.

Sampson wrote Sen. Joseph M. Montoya (D-N.M.), the subcommittee chairman, that personnel costs alone, including overtime, would increase by \$180,000.

Sampson submitted the figures at the request of Montoya, who seemed unpersuaded last week when Sampson testified that it would cost more to do the work in a shorter time.

Sampson said Congress gave former President Johnson 18 months to use his transition funds.

Rep. Tom Steed (D-Okla.), chairman of the House subcommittee, considering the requests, said it made no sense to him that it should cost less to perform the same amount of work over 11 months rather than six.

Of the \$850,000, the other \$400,000 is for the former President's \$60,000 annual pension and office and staff allowances. These are permanent benefits after the transition period ends.