

# Fund Cut In House

## \$100,000 Voted; Ford Testifies Next Thursday

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The House voted 342 to 47 last night to slash to \$100,000 the \$450,000 requested by the Ford administration to help former President Nixon's six-month transition to private life.

In a related action, President Ford sent word that he will appear next Thursday at 10 a.m. before a House Judiciary subcommittee to answer questions about the circumstances under which he pardoned Mr. Nixon for any crimes he may have committed while President.

And a Senate Appropriations subcommittee considering support money for Mr. Nixon received figures from the Office of Management and Budget showing that staff, Secret Service protection and other services provided for Mr. Nixon are costing the taxpayers \$9,880 a day. This does not count original cost of office space and equipment available to him, but does include salaries of federal employees planning recovery of federal equipment at his Key Biscayne, Fla., residence.

The House then moved on to consider further cuts in the \$400,000 requested by the Ford administration for Mr. Nixon as the first installment to pay his \$60,000 annual pension and provide permanent staff and office space. The administration had requested \$850,000 for the transition costs and permanent benefits for six months. The House Appropriations Committee reduced this to \$398,000.

Critics of Mr. Nixon asked why there was any need to help him make a transition to private life.

"What transition?" asked Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.). "What function does an ex-President who left office under less than honorable circumstances perform for the people of the United States that justifies a gratuity of \$100,000?"

Rep. George Danielson (D-Calif.) asked "What does this man need? He is no longer President." Danielson noted there was an allowance in the transition request for travel. "Where is he going? He's already gone."

Before reducing the transition funds to \$100,000 the House refused by a vote of 227 to 169 to reduce the figure to zero.

The House Appropriations Committee had approved \$245,000 for transition expenses. Rep. Howard Robison (R-N.Y.) defended this allowance

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as necessary to help Mr. Nixon answer 500,000 pieces of mail received since his resignation and to sort out 42 million pages of his presidential records.

Under an agreement he signed with the government, Mr. Nixon is to obtain control over his papers and have them shipped to California. But they will not be shipped until released to the courts, and Congress is moving toward enacting legislation under which the government would retain control over the records to prevent their destruction.

In related developments yesterday:

- House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) said he had at first been apprehensive that Mr. Ford's decision to testify before a congressional committee might set a precedent that could return to haunt him and future Presidents. But he now thinks it was a wise move to clear the air.

Rhodes played a role in persuading the President to answer congressional questions on the Nixon pardon, even though Rhodes hadn't intended that it be done in person. After Mr. Ford's first reply to the Hungate subcommittee merely referred questioners to his press conference statements, Rhodes said, he told White House advisers that the President should answer the questions. The alternative would have been a floor fight over a resolution directing him to answer.

- A Senate Appropriations

subcommittee considering the \$850,000 requested for first-year support of Mr. Nixon as a former President released figures from the Office of Management and Budget showing it is costing taxpayers \$9,880 a day now to support Mr. Nixon without that extra amount.

That includes, for the period from Mr. Nixon's resignation on Aug. 9 to Sept. 20, \$65,000 in salaries for 22 federal employees detailed to help Mr. Nixon and \$251,000 in other services including Secret Service protection, Air Force courier flights and the rental value of federal facilities Mr. Nixon has been using.

This figure does not take into account \$576,000 worth of security equipment at Mr. Nixon's San Clemente residence or \$56,000 in office equipment and furniture available to him. The OMB reported that a survey is being made to determine which equipment can be economically removed. Also being surveyed is \$573,000 worth of government equipment on Nixon property at Key Biscayne, Fla., where federal costs from Aug. 9 to Sept. 20 were \$99,000 for security and maintenance of government property.

The administration has reported that 22 federal employees, with total annual salaries of nearly \$450,000, have been detailed to help Mr. Nixon for part or all of the six-month transition to private life. These are in addition to staff Mr. Nixon might employ from the money Congress has been asked to appropriate.

In addition to salary, detailed employees are paid

daily subsistence allowances of up to \$40 when they are away from home; some in San Clemente have their homes here. Ronald L. Ziegler, \$42,500-a-year aide to Mr. Nixon, has been drawing the top \$40 per diem allowance since Aug. 9.

A new name, that of former presidential speechwriter Pat Buchanan, appeared on the latest list of detailed employees submitted to the Senate subcommittee, according to

Chairman Joseph M. Montoya (D-N.M.), who said Buchanan drew \$120 in expenses for a three-day period.

A ceiling of \$450,000 is set by law to help outgoing Presidents and Vice Presidents answer mail and sort out records for six months. Another law gives Mr. Nixon permanently a \$60,000 annual pension, office space, up to \$96,000 a year for staff, and Secret Service protection that now costs \$622,000 a year.