

# Nixon's Bay Lane Opened, Rebozo's Bank Robbed

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MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 17—Richard M. Nixon, for six years the most powerful person in the most powerful nation on earth, was turned down today by the Dade County Board of Commissioners on a petition to keep tourists off the road in front of his house. The vote was 5 to 3.

The board rejected a petition bearing the names "Richard M. Nixon and wife Patricia R. Nixon" with more than a dozen other signatories, requesting the conversion of the little Key Biscayne street known as Bay Lane from a public to a private drive.

The reason, submitted by attorneys for Mr. Nixon and his close friend and neighbor on the street, C. G. Rebozo, was that "heavy thoroughfare traffic is anticipated by virtue of the fact that two houses are owned by the former President of the United States and which have become the objects of curiosity to visitors and tourists..."

Mr. Rebozo, who attended the hearing but did not speak, learned when it was over that his bank, the Key Biscayne Bank and Trust Company, had just been robbed. The police said that a man in a foreign car had handed a drive-in teller a

Continued on Page 41, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

note demanding a sack full of money and warning that a man with a bomb was inside the building. The robber escaped with what a bank official described as a "small" amount of cash. No bomb was found, and it was unclear whether an accomplice had been in the bank.

At today's meeting of the Dade County Commissioners, the rejection of the petition was applauded by many of the 200

spectators who, with 40 newsmen, had jammed the commission chamber in the courthouse building in Miami.

The crowd also showed its approval of a remark by Barry Richard, a State Representative and attorney for the Key Biscayne Taxpayers Association Inc., which opposed making the road private. Mr. Richard declared:

"The people of the United States paid over \$3-million for the Nixon compound. If a few of them want to drive down that road to see what they paid for, they should be able to do it."

Moreover, Mr. Richard con-

tended, there had not been an adequate showing that the closing—which some noted would enhance the value of the property on the street—was necessary.

Arthur H. Simons, a Key Biscayne resident for 22 years, also argued against private status for the street.

"There are enough people living behind gates and barricades," he said, "and the last thing we need is more gates, barriers and armed guards."

### 'An Elitist Posture'

After the hearings Mr. Simons, who said he had been a friend of Mr. Rebozo for 20 years, remarked that "one of the things I refrained from saying was that all citizens are created equal, but some citizens think they are more equal than others."

Harvey Ruvlin, one of the commission members who voted against private status for the road, said, "In all respect for Mr. Rebozo, there was an elitist posture to the request—the appearance that the residents on the road expect treatment a normal citizen doesn't have coming to him."

One of the three voting in favor of closing the lane was Commissioner Harry P. Cain, a former United States Senator from Washington State.

"For the next couple of years," Mr. Cain said after the hearing, "this could be an attraction the equal of any in the

country—and the road won't take it. If I were a property owner on Bay Lane, I would want it closed."

Mrs. Toni Reinhardt, president of the Taxpayers Association, questioned the motives of the petitioners—who included another Nixon friend and Bay Lane neighbor, Robert H. Abplanalp.

"These people don't go into anything unless they make money on it," she asserted. "Some day they might start charging admission."

Earlier this month it was revealed that Mr. Nixon was planning to sell his properties at Key Biscayne, and a buyer has reportedly been found.

Mr. Abplanalp has said that he, Mr. Rebozo and others were considering forming a nonprofit foundation to help pay for Mr. Nixon's mortgages on his holdings, including those at San Clemente, Calif., where Mr. Nixon is living.

Mr. Rebozo said nothing and avoided newsmen after the meeting.

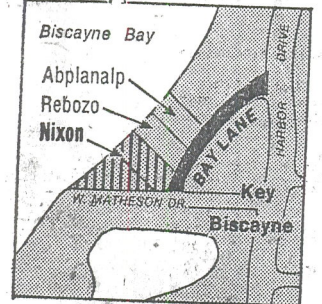
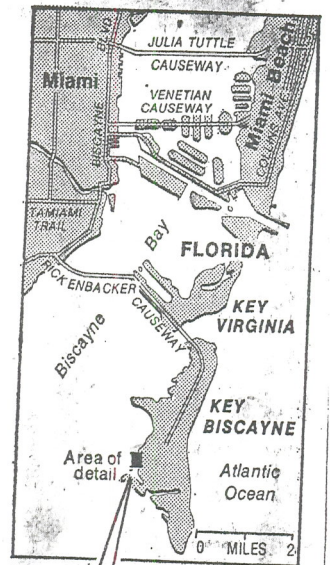
At the Bay Lane site itself, Secret Service men remained on duty at the barricaded entrance to the former Presidential compound, turning away all visitors.

### A 'Honk' Sign

A spokesman said that as many as 200 persons a day had sought to enter the compound and had to be turned back.

"Most of them are curious," he said, "but lately they seem more insistent—since he's no longer President."

He said Secret Service personnel would be removed "sometime this week" and the road opened to the public.



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Charles G. Rebozo at the bank he heads in Key Biscayne, Fla., after it was robbed

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**Bay Lane, access to the Nixon and Rebozo houses in Key Biscayne, Fla., is still under Secret Service guard, but this is to be discontinued shortly.**