



IT'S UP TO THE SECRET SERVICE NOW
Home of ex-President Nixon in San Clemente
—UPI Photo

Brown vetoes police funds for San Clemente

By Carol Pogash

San Clemente has lost its favored city status. Once the home of the summer White House it now houses an ex-president who resigned in disgrace.

Many of the federal funds that once flowed through this opulent community have dried up.

A \$117,000 grant to fight crime in San Clemente was vetoed by Gov. Brown this week.

The money would have helped protect former President Nixon and the 20,000 residents in the community from the dangers of "dissidents" and mentally disturbed persons attracted to a president or an ex-president."

It became the first gubernatorial veto of federally funded grants which generated \$64 million to fight crime in California annually.

Funded since 1969, the grant would have paid the salaries of a full time sergeant, three detectives (75 per cent of their time) four patrolmen (87.5 per cent of their time), a half time intelligence officer and a patrolman (40 per cent

of the time).

Even without these personnel Nixon will not be exposed to angry elements. He still receives the services of 30 Secret Service agents. And he's protected in his high-walled compound by security fencing and screening, Secret Service command posts, redwood fencing, bullet resistant glass, special lighting and tell-tale TV sets.

The ill-fated San Clemente police proposal tells as much about the city's plans as about its past policies.

On intelligence gathering it reads:

"The intelligence officer keeps the department informed at all times as to information gathered regarding dissidents and possible demonstrators. . ."

"Photos are taken of all known or suspected dissidents, whether in demonstrations or alone. These photographs are then distributed to other agencies for identification and evaluation. We have found through this exchange that many of the same people who have been leaders in East ern demonstrations have been identified as the same people who have been leading demonstrations here."

During the five-and-a-half year period of Nixon's presidency 30 to 40 demonstrations were staged in San Clemente, police there estimate.

Following Nixon's resignation, the left-wing "dissidents" that once flocked to the city disappeared and a new group of right wingers arrived. The right wingers, the police say, are convinced a Communist plot forced Nixon out of office. But they are a manageable lot, authorities believe, even without the addition of federally funded police.

The police grant, which was given automatically each year since 1969, ran into difficulty last summer when Nixon resigned under pressure.

The former president retired to San Clemente, renaming the house, golf course, swimming pool, gazebo and gardens Casa Pacifica.

But without his designates in Washington, the grant could no longer be assured.

"It became a political football," explained San Clemente police sergeant Craig Steckler. And the federal government intentionally dropped it, refusing the customary preferential treatment and passing the grant through the state instead.

Meanwhile Californians elected a new governor who began questioning the automatic use of federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration funds for anti-crime projects of questionable benefit.

Brown tied the purse strings on \$12 million for 250 crime fighting projects and said none would be approved until each was thoroughly examined.

The state contribution on the San Clemente proposal amounted to \$9,000 or 6.2 per cent. The federal LEAA contribution would have been \$108,000 or 75 per cent. And the remaining \$27,000 would have come from the city of San Clemente.

The new governor, who likes to ask basic questions, recently asked a group of California Criminal Justice Planning directors "Why do you spend money to protect the city (of San Clemente)? If you don't like it, abate (the Nixon residence) as a nuisance."