

HOUSE CURBS WORK ON NIXON'S HOMES

Also Votes to End Special
White House Fund and
Part of Agnew's Staff

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 —

The House agreed today to bar further "security" improvements on President Nixon's private homes at Key Biscayne, Fla., and San Clemente, Calif., without specific Congressional approval.

The House also agreed to wipe out a traditional \$1.5-million "special projects" White House fund, which the Nixon Administration used to pay the \$100-a-day consulting fee to E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the convicted Watergate conspirators.

As passed by voice vote and sent to the Senate, a \$4.8-billion appropriations bill to finance the White House, Postal Service and Treasury held little but bad news for the President.

Among other things, the bill would wipe out Vice President Agnew's 30-member staff in the Executive Office Building. This staff administers special functions assigned to the Vice President by the President.

The bill would also take away the President's power to set special per diem rates for

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House Votes a Restriction On Work at Nixon Homes

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his appointees and require him to account for funds spent for entertainment.

The crackdown on "security" improvements at the President's private homes and the wiping out of the "special projects" fund reflected a growing concern within Congress that it had not adequately monitored Presidential expenditures in past years.

But the wiping out of the Vice President's Executive Office Building staff and the stripping of various Presidential powers on setting per diem rates came solely on points of order.

The \$675,000 allocation to the Vice President to render "special assistance to the President" was deleted from the bill on the ground that the section included language constituting legislation on an appropriations bill, if the allocation is not restored by the Senate, this action would eliminate 30 of the Vice President's employees but would not affect his staff on Capitol Hill.

The same point of order—legislation on an appropriations bill—led to the action on the per diem and entertainment funds. The money for these and such other items as travel and communications — \$9.1-million — was left intact.

The appropriations bill passed today would require prior approval of the House and Senate committees on appropriations before Government funds could be spent on "fencing, lighting, guard booths and other facilities on private or other property not in Government ownership or control as may be appropriate to enable the United States Secret Service to perform its protective functions."

Representative Jack Brooks, Democrat of Texas, the chairman of a House Government Operations subcommittee, said yesterday that he would seek to subpoena Government records on work done on the Nixon homes.

Mr. Brooks said that he had been forced to take this "drastic action" because the White House had instructed the Gen-

eral Services Administration not to provide the subcommittee with promised data about House Appropriations Committee said they were motivated solely by the refusal of the office of Management and Budget to disclose how the money was spent.

In recommending the elimination of the "special projects" fund—provided every President since 1956—key leaders of the expenditures on the President's private homes.

But from other sources within the committee, it was learned that a preliminary General Accounting Office report indicated that some of the "special projects" money was used in 1971 and 1972 to pay travel bills, consulting fees and parts of salaries for a number of regular White House staff members.

These included Hunt and Tom Charles Huston, drafter of a "covert operation" plan to deal with what the Administration considered national security leaks, such as the release of the Pentagon papers.

Frederic V. Malek, deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, refused in May to tell the House Appropriations subcommittee that handles White House allocations whether some of the "special projects" money had been used to finance the White House "Plumbers" team investigating security leaks.

Neither the wiping out of the special projects fund nor the plan for closer scrutiny of expenditures on the President's houses encountered any opposition.

But there was open season on other White House functions as critics sought to trim funds from the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Telecommunications Policy.

A proposal by Representative Frank E. Evans, Democrat of Colorado, to cut \$800,000 from the \$16-million earmarked for the budget office was narrowly defeated by a vote of 209 to 198. The President and the budget office have incurred Congressional wrath this year by freezing billions of dollars of funds earlier appropriated by Congress.