

Different Amounts

Furor Over How Nixon Bought California Home

Santa Ana

The Santa Ana Register says Senate investigators believe President Nixon may have used \$1 million in unreported campaign funds left over from his 1968 presidential race in the purchase of his estate in San Clemente.

The newspaper said the funds were kept in a secret bank account by Mr. Nixon's attorney, Herbert Kalmbach, who has been named as one of those in charge of funds for GOP political espionage work.

The source of the disclosure, the Register said, is a preliminary report of Federal investigators for the U.S. Senate Committee which is to begin hearings this week on the Watergate affair.

DENIAL

The White House described the Register's story as "a total fabrication."

"It is a totally false and malicious report," Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said.

Senator Sam J. Ervin (Dem.-N. C.), chairman of the special committee, said of the report: "I never heard about it before you mentioned it." Staff lawyers also said they had no such report.

About an hour after the report moved on Associated Press wires, Ziegler summoned reporters to his office and said contacts with members of the Senate investigating committee indicated its staff "has absolutely no information to support this story."

An AP reporter had gone to deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren well in advance of movement of the account of AP wires to seek comment. Warren urged



HERBERT KALMBACH
The President's attorney

that the story not be disseminated until the White House had a chance to prepare a reply.

"It is incredible that I even have to issue a denial of a story such as this," Ziegler said. "It's incredible that a story ran on a national wire service" without the White House having an opportunity to comment on it.

Ziegler said Mr. Nixon, perhaps more than most Presidents, has repeatedly provided "a complete accounting of his holdings and assets" and said details of the purchase of the San Clemente home had been spelled out by the White House at the time.

Reminded that Orange county land and tax records list the property in the name of Title Insurance and Trust Co. of Los Angeles, Ziegler was asked if the White House was prepared to spell out the terms of the actual ownership.

He said he hoped to be able to provide a full account of Mr. Nixon's land

holdings and the purchase arrangements in the near future, perhaps as early as today.

CUSTODIAN

The federal investigators have been checking into allegations that money from Kalmbach's bank account was used to pay off several participants in the Watergate break-in in June, 1972.

At first the investigators believed that Kalmbach's account at the Newport Beach branch of the Bank of America contained unreported funds from the 1972 campaign, the Register said in Sunday's editions.

But it later was determined, according to the report, that Kalmbach was also the custodian of unreported money on hand after the 1968 campaign.

"There are strong indications that a portion of these funds, perhaps \$1 million, was used for the purchase of the San Clemente residence," said one investigator in his report as quoted by the Register.

At the time of the \$1.5 million purchase of the San Clemente estate in 1969, former presidential adviser John Ehrlichman told the press that Mr. Nixon paid \$100,000 of the \$400,000 down

payment and assumed a mortgage of \$240,000. The Register said that documents in the Orange county Recorder's office showed there was a \$400,000 down payment and a \$1 million mortgage on the parcel.

Ehrlichman had said that the President controlled only the ten-room Spanish villa, nearby outbuildings and five of the 21.65 acres involved in the purchase.

Several weeks later Mr. Nixon acquired a 2.95-acre parcel immediately adjacent to the grounds of the Western White House for \$100,000 — a \$20,000 down payment and an \$80,000 mortgage.

County records indicate that Mr. Nixon controls the entire estate, not the small portion Ehrlichman mentioned, said the Register.

PHOTO →



AP Wirephotos

The Santa Ana Register reported Mr. Nixon's California home was purchased with secret campaign money