

Merry-Go-Round ~~SFChronicle~~ JUL 2 1973

Nixon, the ITT and A Free Golf Course



Jack Anderson

ABOUT the same time that International Telephone and Telegraph was pulling strings to settle its antitrust troubles, a subsidiary helped to install a free golf course at President Nixon's San Clemente estate.

The picturesque presidential links, located along the cliff overlooking the Pacific within an iron shot of the Nixon beach house, was constructed by a group which called itself "Golfing Friends of the President." The ITT subsidiary, Scott Lawn Products Company of Marysville, Ohio, provided the seed, fertilizers and gardening work free of charge.

For their selfless efforts, the President's "Golfing Friends" were rewarded with a party at the opening of the links. The President presented each contributor with a royal blue windbreaker emblazoned with the presidential seal. He also posed for pictures with his golfing pals and then autographed the prints.

The free golfing green coincided closely with the \$400,000 pledge that ITT offered toward financing the Republican Convention. This was linked by the famous Dita Beard memo to the settling of ITT's antitrust problems.

Both the Western White House and Scott Lawn Products acknowledged to us that the free work had been done.

Footnote: We reported last October 3 that the taxpayers also helped to renovate the President's old Spanish villa at San Clemente. Specifically, we mentioned a \$13,500 outlay for a new heating system.

The government has now acknowledged that more than \$1 million was spent on the San Clemente home out of the public till, including \$13,500 furnace, a \$2329 flagpole, \$1995 septic tank, \$621 ice maker and \$4800 for den furniture.

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A \$50 MILLION payoff by the United States to South Vietnam to induce President Nguyen to "go along" with the government.

From Anderson column, SFChronicle 3 Jul 73; filed Watergate:

Editor's Note: ITT informs us that the Scott Lawn Products Co. was NOT a subsidiary of ITT at the time it supplied free seed, fertilizer and gardening work for President Nixon's Western White House golf course.

See also this file 9 Jul 73, WXPost.