

Nixon and the Press: The Rift Is Reopened

by John Herbers

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No President, Gerald L. Warren, the Presidential spokesman, said, had ever gone so far in making public details about his private property. But this did not end the controversy. The flow of news, analysis and opinion out of this western seat of government continued to raise questions embarrassing to the President: Why did the President conceal for three months the fact that his good friend C.G. Rebozo teamed up with industrialist Robert H. Abplanalp to help bail the President out of buying part of the Nixon estate here? (The White House answer: Mr. Rebozo was tired of publicity and the President did not want to embarrass him.)

How can a President who has little independent wealth expect to pay a note of \$226,000, more than his gross salary of \$200,000 a year, on his homes next July? And on and on the questions go. White House aides were angered that The New York Times published this morning, in its account of the auditing report, the fact that two former officials of Coopers and Lybrand, the auditing firm, were fined for mail fraud* in 1968 and received Presidential pardons last December.

This fact was known when Coopers & Lybrand was picked on the advice of H. Chapman Rose of Cleveland and Kenneth W. Gemmill of Philadelphia, two highly regarded tax lawyers who came in to help the President on the matter. The White House explanation was that the fined auditors had long since left the firm and that it never occurred to anyone involved that it would make any difference or attract any attention.

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*false financial statements and mail fraud - NYT 28 Aug 73