

U.S. Pays Half San Clemente Police Cost

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More than a third of the annual budget of the 49-man San Clemente, Calif., police department is being spent for the security of President Nixon's estate, and more than half of the cost is reimbursed by the federal government, according to an accounting submitted to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

This year, the San Clemente police force plans to spend a total of \$992,593, of which \$341,382 is directly attributed to the presence of the summer White House, Public Safety Director Clifford G. Murray said.

Of this, \$189,207 will be reimbursed by the LEAA, the funding arm of the Justice Department, bringing to a total of \$584,831 the administration has given the police force since 1970.

These costs are in addition to the \$635,000 the Gen-

eral Services Administration said the government spent on security installations and improvements, and the \$3.7 million the White House said the military spent on communications systems and offices at San Clemente.

Additionally, annual recurring military costs at the estate have been \$677,000, according to the White House. According to Murray, federal assistance to the San Clemente police force will be necessary as long as the President lives in the city because of the need for "crowd control and the handling of riots and disorders."

Moreover, Murray said in a federal grant application, a constant stream of tourists who attempt to get a glimpse of Mr. Nixon's palatial, Spanish-style home requires additional police protection.

The San Clemente force has established a special in-

telligence unit and a crowd control unit and has purchased a wide array of police hardware to be used for presidential security.

The equipment includes extra police cruisers, a beach vehicle and anti-riot gear, consisting of 18 flame-proof jump suits, 18 pairs of black combat boots, 18 pairs of black leather gloves, riot batons and helmets with face shields.

The department also used LEAA funds to purchase a surveillance radio, valued at \$2,220, which, according to the grant application, "is for candidstine recordings of conversations related to crime, criminal acts etc."

"We have found this piece of equipment highly desirable in our support functions to the Secret Service," the public safety director explained in the application.

A spokesman for the department said yesterday that there have been 10

demonstrations outside the estate so far this year, none of which resulted in violence. Most of them numbered about 100 persons or less, the spokesman said.

Of the 10 demonstrations, five occurred during the three-day visit of Communist Party General Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev last June.

Last year there were nine demonstrations outside the gate to the President's compound, and in 1970 and 1971 there were seven each year. In 1969, according to the grant application, there were three demonstrations.

When applying in July, 1971, for further federal assistance, Murray wrote, "We were faced with many demonstrations comprised of many people—as many as 5,000 in some cases—protesting anything which seemed or was capable of generating sufficient support for demonstration purposes."

Also, Murray said, residents of the adjacent Cypress Shore private community demanded additional police services because of sightings. Requests for services have doubled since Mr. Nixon purchased the estate, he said.

The public safety director said it would be impossible for the City of San Clemente to finance police services related to the presidential compound without federal assistance.

The federal funds have been spent mostly on 10 new officer positions on the force, special training for men assigned to the compound area, and the new equipment.

In explaining 1970-71 spending, Murray reported that his own office was converted to a communications center "primarily because the existing communications center was immediately ad-

acent to the main entrance (of police headquarters) and five feet from a parking lot and very vulnerable to damage should militant groups decide to attempt to disable communications ability."

The San Clemente police force's new intelligence team, according to Murray, has been assigned to other areas when needed. Twice it was sent to Oceanside, Calif., for antiwar demonstrations, and it once was sent to Anaheim when Youth International Party (Yippie) demonstrators threatened to shut down Disneyland, said Murray.

An LEAA spokesman said there have been no direct federal grants to the Dade County, Fla., police department, which helps to protect the President's two homes in Key Biscayne. Dade County authorities did not request federal assistance, as San Clemente did, the spokesman said.