

Conflict Over Costs At San Clemente

By William O'Brien

The Secret Service disclosed in Washington yesterday that it did not recommend more than \$10,000 worth of improvements, including a \$2800 swimming pool heater, as security-related items for the San Clemente estate of President Nixon.

However, other improvements totaling \$693,000, according to the official announcement, had the agency's blessing as security measures.

These included a \$13,500 heating system, \$13,186 for a beach cabana and crossover of a railroad track, and \$76,000 worth of trees and bushes.

Noticeably Missing

Despite release of the audit report last week by the General Services Administration here as the complete report of spending at the Western White House, the cost of the swimming pool heater was noticeably missing. Its government purchase was confirmed in Washington yesterday by Arthur Sampson, administrator of the GSA.

The \$5000 cost of the pool was borne by the President. Release of details on government spending at San Clemente caused scrapping of the GSA's first report that only \$462,000 had been paid

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out. It also dwarfed the White House estimate of no more than \$39,000.

The Secret Service also declined to accept responsibility for recommending installation of a \$1,853 flag pole and its \$476 cost of painting.

Nor would the Secret Service accept responsibility for the \$4,834 furnishings in-

stalled in the Presidential den-study.

Jack Warner, spokesman for the agency, explained the beach cabana has security value because it doubles as a guardhouse. Rewiring of the house, at \$172,788, was required to operate Secret Service communications and electronic devices, Warner said.

A bullet-resistant glass shield around the swimming pool was installed at a cost of \$12,964 and the same glass was installed in windows for another \$3500.

It also was disclosed the President had paid approximately \$2,000 from his own pocket to install a fireplace in the study in August 1970. A few months later, sparks from the fireplace set a blaze which drove the Nixon

family from the home briefly.

In San Clemente, a spokesman for the City Building Department, described the Spanish-style Presidential retreat as in need of extensive repairs when it was acquired by the Nixon family in 1969.