

Nixon's \$200,000 Gift

San Clemente

A group of California businessmen who built a golf course for President Nixon on the grounds of his San Clemente estate has disclosed that their gift would amount to at least \$200,000, including its upkeep, by the time he leaves the presidency.

The gift, by 76 men who call themselves "the golfing friends of the president" although he apparently has never played the course with any of them, was valued at \$85,000 to \$100,000 by a spokesman who called it "probably the finest small course in the country."

In addition, members of the select group with its generous sprinkling of millionaires pay annual dues of \$250 each or an over-all total of about \$19,000 a year, for so long as Mr. Nixon is President, to maintain the three-hole, nine-tee course that undulates over a 2½-acre section of the 26-acre presidential estate.

A full-time greenskeeper, Leo Duell, who is paid by the 76 Club, as it is sometimes called, has tended the course since its completion in August, 1970, a year after Mr. Nixon acquired the property.

INSPIRATION

Oscar W. Richard of Newport Beach, who had the original inspiration for the gift and was its chief fundraiser, described the financing of the project to "set it apart" from recent disclosures of large sums of government money spent on im-

New Probe of Nixon's Home, Campaign Funds

New York

Senate Watergate investigators are taking seriously the possibility that Republican campaign funds were used to help finance the purchase of President Nixon's estate at San Clemente, Calif., Time magazine reported yesterday.

Mr. Nixon's former personal attorney, Herbert Kalmbach, was the custodian of \$1.6 million left over from Mr. Nixon's 1968 campaign, the magazine said.

Time said Kalmbach denied any misdeed, saying, "not a dime of campaign money went into San Clemente."

The White House previously has denied published news accounts alleging that campaign funds were used in the purchase of the San Clemente estate.

Associated Press

proving the President's homes here and in Key Biscayne, Fla.

"The government has not paid one penny toward building the course or its upkeep, not one shrub of landscaping or a drop of the water used on the greens and fairways," said the 66-year-old land developer, banker and longtime friend of Mr. Nixon. "Nor will Mr.

Nixon bear any of the expense while he is in the White House."

Each of the 76 golfing friends is the possessor of a walnut and silver plaque, inscribed with his name and the presidential seal, and enjoys the distinction of being allowed to use the golf course whenever Mr. Nixon or members of his family are not at their Spanish-style residence, El Casa Pacifica, on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Many but by no means all of the golfing friends — the list was limited to 76 to "provide a patriotic flavor" — are members of the influential Lincoln Club of Orange county.

CONTRIBUTORS

Richard is a director and vice president of the Republican club, composed largely of wealthy men who have given large sums to Mr. Nixon's political campaigns, some as far back as 1946 when he first ran for Congress from Orange county.

Other contributors from the Lincoln Club include actor John Wayne, George Holstein, a builder, Kenneth Gaede, John Lusk, Bob Lynch, the president's brother, Donald, and Herbert W. Kalmbach of Newport

Beach, who until his involvement in the Watergate scandal was Mr. Nixon's personal attorney.

Bob Hope is one of several Palm Springs residents and friends of the President who belong to the 76 Club.

A half dozen of the leading land developers of the Newport Beach-Corona Del Mar coastal area are donors, as are several bankers and financiers, at least six of whom are rated as multimillionaires. Others are prominent merchants who donated materials for construction of the course.

The details provided by Richard of the investment in the golf course increase to nearly a million dollars the money reported in various accounts to have been spent thus far on improvements to the \$1.5 million presidential estate here over the last 4½ years.

A series of reports by the General Services Administration produced, on June 21, the latest figure of \$703,367 in government funds spent on improvements to the San Clemente house and grounds, with the explanation that they were security measures requested by the Secret Service.

New York Times