

AGENCY TO CHECK NIXON'S PROPERTY

Will Seek to Determine What
Government Can Recover

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21 (21)

—The Government is going to re-examine all publicly financed items installed in Richard M. Nixon's homes in Florida and California with an eye to recovering what it profitably can, the head of the General Services Administration says.

Arthur F. Sampson said his agency would "look at every item" installed while Mr. Nixon was President and then decide what should be done with them.

From Mr. Nixon's election until mid-1973, the Government put \$1,156,075 worth of equipment and capital improvements into his homes at San Clemente, Calif., and Key Biscayne, Fla.

Mr. Sampson said yesterday that the object of the examination would be to "determine what is in the best interest of the Federal Government."

He said it would not be in the Government's interest to dig up \$3,000 worth of wiring if the salvage value was only a few dollars. But other items that are no longer needed and that could be easily removed could be reclaimed, he said.

The agency was heavily criticized when details of its spending on Mr. Nixon's property emerged through news reports and Congressional hearings in 1973. The Government took the position that most of the expenditures had been required for security protection.

2 Homes in Florida

Mr. Sampson said he was considering what to do at Key Biscayne if Mr. Nixon sold either or both of his homes there. As President, he used one house for a vacation residence and the second for an office. The Government leased two others in the compound for administrative and security offices.

A spokesman for the Secret Service, which will provide lifelong protection for Mr. Nixon, said that agency would "stand by and let the dust settle and see what his intentions are."

He said security protection continued at Key Biscayne the same as when Mr. Nixon was President.

The Secret Service said that although the oceanfront beach at San Clemente had been opened to the public, security restrictions remained in effect on the waters off the Key Biscayne property.

Some fishermen in the Miami area have complained that the prohibited area includes good fishing grounds.

The beach at San Clemente

was closed while Mr. Nixon was there as President and for the first several days after he returned after his resignation. But then a Coast Guard cutter was withdrawn. Only a few bathers go to the area, however, because it is a long walk from the nearest access point.

As long as security requirements continue, many of the Government-financed installations at Mr. Nixon's homes may have to be retained.

Mr. Sampson said Mr. Nixon's aides had informally expressed

Mr. Nixon's intent to make the former Western White House compound at San Clemente his permanent office.

The facility is at a Coast Guard station adjacent to the former President's residence.

Mr. Nixon is entitled to office support funds for six months under the Presidential Transition Act, then for the rest of his life under the Former Presidents Act. He is entitled to \$450,000 for other expenses of his Presidential transition, but he has not received the money

yet because it has not been formally appropriated.

After six months Mr. Nixon will be entitled to \$96,000 a year for salaries of aides. He will also receive allowances for office space, postage, some travel and some communications.

Mr. Sampson said those extra items would be budgeted each year in consultation with the former President.

**THE FRESH AIR FUND
300 WEST 43rd STREET**