

From column by Maxine Cheshire:

Nixon Lanes

There has been some confusion over who paid for the new bowling alley installed for the First Family's use in the White House.

After the existence of the alley became known last week, United Press International carried a story quoting First Lady Pat Nixon's press secretary, Helen Smith, as saying that the Nixons had "paid for the lane out of their own pockets."

Later, Mrs. Smith told The Washington Post that the UPI reporter had "misunderstood.

"All I said was that no government funds were involved and that it was a private matter," she said.

After further checking, she had discovered that the lane had been installed by the American Machine Foundry Co., the bowling alley manufacturer which leases to the government the two alleys in the Executive Office Building previous First Families had used.

According to AMF spokesman Thomas Briggs, the Nixons' new alley is being leased to the government under the same 1955 contract which covers the other lanes. He declined to disclose the rental fee.

But Mrs. Smith insists friends of the Nixons, including Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, pay the rental and also underwrote the expenses of remodeling and decorating space in the executive mansion to house the facility.

"Mr. Rebozo loves to bowl and he and Mrs. Nixon bowl there frequently together," said Mrs. Smith.