

NYTimes
The Nixon Life Style

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To the Editor:

In the sixteenth century, Queen Elizabeth I spent a great deal of her time roving about the English countryside on "royal progressions," accompanied by a huge entourage, visiting noblemen of her realm. Her hosts were flattered, of course, and often financially ruined by her visits.

In the nineteenth century, mad King Ludwig of Bavaria impoverished his country by his compulsion to build "fairy-tale" castles, of which Neuschwanstein is probably best known to the American tourist (a vanishing breed—who can afford to go abroad on our depleted dollars?).

In the twentieth century, this country has King Richard, who moves restlessly and nervously about from the White House to Camp David to San Clemente to Key Biscayne (with side visits to Grand Cay)—ten moves in a recent 21-day period.

The maintenance of his residences and the cost of moving his entourage add up to 110 million tax dollars per year. Another \$10 million has been spent to refurbish his properties in the name of "security," and it doesn't help at all to be told that much of the San Clemente property that we are

gussying up will eventually go to his friends in a real-estate deal that has never been made completely clear and probably never will.

Now we are told that another \$285,000 is to be spent on the Presidential plane because Mrs. Nixon doesn't like the "floor plan." Is that the same Thelma Ryan Nixon whose husband delivered a quavering defense of his secret campaign funds via television over twenty years ago, with a maudlin reference to her respectable Republican cloth coat?

I submit that the Nixons have the sensibilities of a brick wall to live in this style at a time when housing is in short supply, when interest rates and the cost of living move ever higher, when many of the elderly on fixed incomes are reported as eating cat food and subsisting on one meal a day. Meanwhile, the firm of Nixon, Butz and Shultz continues to tell us that we never had it so good. Does all this have a thirty-ish ring?

Perhaps we should have been warned in 1969 when Nixon ordered those Graustarkian uniforms for his palace guard after his triumphal tour of Europe. You remember—his first royal progression abroad, right after his coronation. MARJORIE SANFORD GARCIA
Lubbock, Tex., Oct. 4, 1973