

# Nixon \$167,000 Over His Budget



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**Jack Anderson**

**R**ICHARD NIXON has spent almost double the amount Congress allotted for his transition from President to common citizen.

Congress voted a flat \$200,000 to help him adjust to private life. He has already spent at least \$367,000.

We have obtained the expenditures that Mr. Nixon has run up in exile at San Clemente, Calif.

During the first three months, \$107,000 was paid out in salaries to 29 aides, including his personal butler, maid, three chauffeurs and a medical corpsman. This doesn't count \$47,000 for the Nixons' living expenses, nor \$2419 for their miscellaneous travel bills.

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**N**IXON'S own travel from Washington to San Clemente cost the taxpayers \$8440 from the transition fund. But this was only part of the cost; the rest was charged to the White House because he technically remained President during the first part of the flight.

There was a bill for \$3147, however, for packing and moving Mr. Nixon's personal effects to Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington. No charge was made against the transition fund for the shipment to San Clemente, because the crates were carried on scheduled military flights. Mr. Nixon's military drivers picked up the crates at El Toro Marine Base, Calif.

To keep Mr. Nixon's fleet of government cars full of gas has cost \$2000.

A bill for \$9172 was submitted for office

supplies, wire service machines and magazine subscriptions.

Not included in the transition cost, of course is the \$17 million that the federal government has sunk in the Nixon estates in California and Florida.

But even after he gave up the presidency, the government continued to lavish money on his two estates. During the first three months of his retirement, \$52,160 was spent at San Clemente and \$23,540 at Key Biscayne to operate the facilities.

It has cost another \$83,000 to screen, crate and store millions of Nixon papers.

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**E**XCEPT for the \$17 million that went into the presidential compounds, all the expenses listed above were supposed to come out of the \$200,000 transition budget.

Yet on November 9, when these figures were submitted, the former President had already exceeded the budget by a whopping \$167,000. This raises the question of who will be stuck for the overspending.

Since Mr. Nixon has been pardoned for the crimes his associates have been convicted of, he is still eligible for an annual \$60,000 pension and \$96,000 staff allowance. The fairest solution might be to deduct the excessive spending from his future appropriations.

**Footnote:** The \$367,000 in bills Mr. Nixon has run up doesn't include the cost of protecting him, which is not considered a transition expense. It will cost the Secret Service at least \$622,000 a year to protect the Nixons. Another \$126,000 was

spent last year on Coast Guard and Secret Service equipment at Key Biscayne.

Today's column is by Jack Anderson and Les Whitten