

The Richard Nixon Presidential Library



Jack Anderson

MORE AND MORE, it looks as if the new federal building in Laguna Niguel, Calif., may become the Richard Nixon presidential library.

The latest information, developed by investigators for the General Accounting Office, reveals that the amount of space reserved for the Nixon papers has tripled in the last year to 60,000 square feet.

The GAO sleuths also learned that the government has plans to install a \$30,000 vault in the building. Congress last year rejected a request to install a \$110,000 safe to store Nixon papers and tapes.

As early as March 22, 1974, we exposed the strange deal by which the government took possession of the mammoth, Pyramid-like office building located only 10 miles from Richard Nixon's San Clemente estate.

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THE TAXPAYERS are bailing out another giant corporation, Rockwell International, which had been stuck with a lavish, out-of-the-way building it couldn't use," we wrote.

"The General Services Administration has agreed to take over the unoccupied building in exchange for government-owned property which the corporation is leasing but would like to acquire."

The GSA, trying hard to push through the strange deal, apparently lied to Government Operations Chairman Jack Brooks (Dem-Tex.) about the suitability of the space.

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Brooks was told by GSA that the Laguna Niguel building "was adequately protected from fire." But investigators for GAO found that GSA has since contracted for \$346,000 worth of "space preparation," including \$158,000 for fire protection. General fire safety items are expected to run an additional \$510,000 in the next fiscal year.

Our story of a year ago also noted that the "government officials who eventually will inhabit the building live 30 or 40 miles away in the Los Angeles area."

The GAO probe confirmed the seriousness of this issue. The Housing Department, in two separate studies, flatly opposed acquisition of the building. But the dogged GSA chief, Arthur Sampson, went ahead with the deal anyway.

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A CONFIDENTIAL STUDY by former General Motors vice president John DeLorean reports the small cars President Ford has prescribed for fuel economy will increase traffic deaths by 40 per cent unless there is "rapid phase-in of air bags. . . ."

The DeLorean study, commissioned by Allstate Insurance, says the less safe small cars will make up 65 per cent of the market by 1985. But without the air bags and other safety devices, the upsurge will lead to 2.7 million deaths and injuries from cars by 1985. Costs of the safety devices, he suggests, could be more than met by decreased manufacturers' costs for smaller cars and by dropping useless options.

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