

10 Jan 75 ①

Nixon (transition funds) - "Nixon Overspends Transition Fund" - See column by Jack Anderson for details, and break-down of the amount involved. "Congress voted just \$200,000 to help him adjust to private life. He has already spent at least \$367,000."

See clippings for WH reply to Anderson column, and WH break-down of the amount spent for the period 9 Aug to 9 Nov 74; the figures were submitted 18 Nov by Roy L. Ash to Rep. Jack Brooks.

Apparently in answer to Korff's statement 9 Jan that the WH was holding Nixon's personal belongings, Nessen says that Nixon can pick up anything acquired before he took office in 1969 and after he resigned. Nessen says Nixon's belongings are stored in the EOB, including the items mentioned by Korff, that the GSA is making an inventory of them and that there will be further discussions with Nixon's lawyers on the disposition of items acquired while Nixon was in office. See also NYT 14 Jan 75 [UPI].

WXP 10 Jan 75, Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

WXP 11 Jan 75 [UPI]

NYT 11 Jan 75, Richard L. Madden

Ziegler, in two-hour intv, the first he has given since Nixon resigned, complains bitterly about the way Nixon has been "mistreated." Story does not make clear whether intv is a general one, or given only to the LATimes. AMP-A

He is to begin a nationwide speaking tour of colleges and universities and before business groups, beginning the latter part of February; WXP (10 Jan 75, Aarons) says this is to be a six-month tour. NYT (8 Jan 75, Notes on People) says Ziegler is "the senior member of a small team at the Nixon compound ... that is scheduled to go off the Government payroll on Feb. 9." AMP-C

Ziegler says in intv today that he plans to speak of his experiences as a young man who became involved in government, was close to great power and was involved with "a man who resigned."

LATimes says of the intv that "the thrust of Ziegler's remarks, however, went mainly to the conditions of what he freely termed Mr. Nixon's 'exile' in San Clemente.

"It's the first American political exile - self-imposed,

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certainly self-imposed, but certainly exile,' [Ziegler] said. 'You only have to be here to sense it is exile - the abandonment by friends, the isolation, the vindictiveness of some in Washington, including some in Congress and some in the Ford White House.'....

"Ziegler said he did not believe that President Ford knows the way Mr. Nixon is being 'mistreated.' He said Mr. Ford, who was reported to have called to wish Mr. Nixon a happy 62 birthday ~~lastizwenkz~~ [yesterday], had probably telephoned Mr. Nixon altogether only three times since his resignation."

Ziegler says that "what is happening to Richard Nixon as a human being" as a result of the treatment he is getting is "very serious." "The fact that he has survived this period to me is remarkable. What severity of penalty does this society want from a leader? .... If society wants to put him in a cell, there is a cell out there (at the estate)."

See story for other quotations.

SFC 13 Jan 75 [LATimes, Kenneth Reich and Howard Seelye]

Nixon (bill, Air Force One) - In column today on transition fund, Jack Anderson and Les Whitten say that when Nixon flew to California on Air Force One after his resignation, half the cost (or \$8,440) was charged to the WH because technically he was President until his resignation took effect at noon; the remainder was charged to transition fund. The taxpayers paid for the entire trip.

Nessen confirms this today, quoting from report on Federal spending on Nixon for the period 9 Aug to 9 Nov 74 submitted 18 Nov 74 to Rep. Jack Brooks by Roy L. Ash, Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

NYT 11 Jan 75, Richard L. Madden

- At his press conference today Ziegler (see entry) "appeared particularly angry" at Nessen's statement. Ziegler: "For anybody in the White House" to say that Nixon should pay for half the flight "is absurd. .... Yet, it is suggested. It is unbelievable!"

SFC 13 Jan 75 [LATimes, Kenneth Reich and Howard Seelye]

- Report of intv appears in SFC 13 Jan 75; WXP 14 Jan says it was published "Sunday," or 12 Jan 75.

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- Ⓐ - Report of intv appeared in SFC 13 Jan 75 (the only record in file). WXP 14 Jan says it was published "Sunday," or 12 Jan 75; does not say where it appeared on that date.
- Ⓑ - On "abandonment by friends" see entry 9 Jan, Nixon (surprise party); entry 13 Jan, Nixon (San Clemente mortgage paid off).
- Ⓒ - "Ronald Ziegler is booked for the lecture circuit, where a person with good legs and powerful digestion can easily turn \$100,000 a year by talking forty minutes a day without saying anything. No one in the country approaches Mr. Ziegler's qualifications in this field."  
NYT 21 Jan 75, Russell Baker