

# The High Cost Of Camp David

## Washington

The cost of maintaining the presidential retreat, Camp David, has risen to more than four times what it cost under President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Defense Department official said yesterday.

Don R. Brazier, a deputy assistant Secretary of Defense, told the House government activities subcommittee that the cost of maintaining and operating the presidential residence in Maryland's Catoctin mountains was \$640,000 for the 1973 fiscal year.

He said that, during the more than five years, Johnson used Camp David, the annual costs ranged from a low of \$118,000 in 1964 to \$148,000 in 1968.

## HEARINGS

The subcommittee, concluding four days of hearings into government expenditures made at President Nixon's San Clemente, Calif., and Key Biscayne, Fla., homes, heard from a half dozen military officials who testified about Defense Department spending for presidential security facilities and communications.

The officials attributed the higher costs at Camp David to inflation, more complex and costlier security equipment, and the "significantly more frequent use" of the mountain hideaway by Mr. Nixon than previous Presidents.

Colonel Lawrence Adams, White House communications chief, said the military spent a total of \$3.5 million to provide Johnson with elaborate communications facilities at his ranch and elsewhere. This can be compared with an estimated \$5.9 million spent for similar

support for Mr. Nixon, he said.

The subcommittee has figured that a total \$10.1 million was spent on Mr. Nixon, including improvements on his two homes, office complexes and surrounding communications facilities.

## TOTAL

"The public has been asked to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on private homes of the President, although he is already supplied with the White House and Camp David . . ." chairman Jack Brooks (Dem-Tex.) said, adding that the subcommittee would begin drawing up legislation to ensure "that it doesn't happen again."

Brooks said that both the Secret Service and the General Services Administration have been "tarnished" in their approval of many of the improvements made on Mr. Nixon's homes.

Noting that \$141,000 has been spent by the government on former vice president Spiro T. Agnew's Bethesda, Md., home, he added, "I think we ought to build a home for our vice presidents so that the taxpayers can pay for all of these costs one time."

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