

# Nixon Land Deal Probe Reported

Washington

Federal and congressional investigators are looking into possible "corruption at the highest levels of the Nixon administration" and have been focusing on the personal finances of the President himself, Newsweek magazine says in its edition to be published today.

White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, contacted by telephone, called the Newsweek article "incredible." He said that White House lawyers were looking into the statements in the article and added that the White House would have a statement on the article later.

In one inquiry, according to the news magazine, investigators are looking into the possibility that Mr. Nixon may have "manipulated" some family-owned property transactions to minimize the capital gains tax required.

## LOB

The magazine said that in 1967 Mr. Nixon bought two lots near his Key Biscayne property from a friend of Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, a close friend of the president, for what it called the "bargain price" of \$37,600, and then sold the same property for \$150,000, leaving a profit of \$112,400.

Newsweek said it had learned that Tricia Nixon, now Mrs. Edward F. Cox, the president's elder daughter, was an "unrecorded partner" in the property transactions and that \$20,000

of her money was included in the original purchase price.

However, according to Newsweek, investigators have found that the President claimed the entire capital gain on the deal as income on his own tax return. Since Mr. Nixon had already established large deductions, according to the investigators' theory, he claimed the gain because less taxes would have to be paid on the profit than if part of it were recorded as Mrs. Cox's income.

## EXPERT

Newsweek quoted one tax expert as saying of this procedure, "That would be rearranging the family's property for the purpose of avoiding a tax. There have been fraud cases brought on that." The White House said Mr. and Mrs. Cox had paid taxes on the transaction, Newsweek said.

Methods used by Mr. Nixon to establish his "tax-shelter deductions," under which he reportedly was able to pay taxes of only \$792.81 in federal income taxes in 1970 and \$873.03 in 1971 are also being investigated, the magazine reported.

In particular, investigators are scrutinizing the \$570,000 income tax deduction Mr. Nixon claimed for the "charitable donation" of his vice presidential papers to the national archives.

In addition, Newsweek said, investigators were

# Nixon Veto Of Prober Reported

New York

President Nixon has rejected the first nominee offered by acting Attorney General Robert Bork to replace Archibald Cox as the administration's special Watergate prosecutor, Time magazine reported yesterday.

The magazine said Mr. Nixon rejected the man "apparently on the ground of his political leanings."

"Bork had not even been inquiring into the politics of his nominee," the magazine reported, "on the . . . assumption that after all that has happened Nixon would not dare insert politics into his choice."

United Press

looking into accusations involved in the pardoning or commutation of sentence of a group of federal prisoners. The group included the late Mafia figure Angelo Decarlo, the former Teamsters union president, James R. Hoffa, and a former officer of the accounting firm that performed a recent audit on the President's San Clemente, Calif., property.

The Newsweek article said that investigators have heard of documentation indicating that "the pardons were given in return for campaign donations and possibly for personal gifts."

When Decarlo was freed last year the Justice department said the reason was that he was suffering from terminal cancer.