

# Nixon's Invitation To San Clemente



**Jack Anderson**

**P**RESIDENT NIXON has made a strong pitch to federal agencies to hold their conferences at the seaside Western White House in an apparent effort to throw an official cloak around his San Clemente extravaganzas.

The flight of hundreds of bureaucrats to San Clemente, of course, will add to the fuel drain and the taxpayers' bills. But it will be easier for the President to justify the millions he has poured into the San Clemente complex if he can show that government agencies are utilizing the facilities.

The President not only has sent out special invitations to several agencies to make use of the Western White House, but he has included a brochure of all the available attractions.

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**T**HIS alluring booklet, with the title "The Western White House" printed on a fern green cover page, touts the conference facilities at the Coast Guard station next to the presidential compound.

But the emphasis is on the recreation that the officials can enjoy when they're not tied up on official business. The booklet boasts that fishing, swimming, golf, bowling, bull fights, jai-alai and many more leisure activities await them at San Clemente.

Visits to Disneyland, a fruit orchard and the world's biggest telescope are also offered. "Casual dress is the rule in San Clemente," adds the White House booklet.

The presidential invitations were is-

sued earlier this year at a time when Mr. Nixon was on the skillet for using the taxpayers' money to purchase luxury items for the San Clemente compound.

The word that the Western White House was available for conferences was passed to the agencies by his military aide, Brigadier General Brent Scowcroft.

"The President has asked me," wrote the general, "to renew his offer of the facilities of the Western White House for the use of government and certain other groups.

"The area offers generally pleasant weather in a secluded, informal setting . . . the 10 fully-equipped offices, conference room, private beach and bath house, helipad and excellent communications system provide ideal conference accommodations for up to 40 persons," he urged.

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**S**EVERAL government agencies have jumped at the opportunity to hold their meetings in balmy San Clemente. Among them are the Justice Department, Federal Aviation Administration, General Services Administration and the Labor Department.

At the White House, General Scowcroft said his predecessor had sent out a similar invitation before all the hoopla over the President's San Clemente spending. The purpose of his own memo, Scowcroft said, was purely "to tell them there were those facilities available." He denied "100 per cent" that it was to justify the President's spending.