

Key Biscayne Estate Bars Tax Assessors

MIAMI, Dec. 24 (UPI)—Tax assessments on President Nixon's Key Biscayne compound have been made for the last five years without assessors being allowed to have a look at the property, Dade County tax assessor A. H. Blake Jr. said today.

Secret Service agents, citing security reasons, have refused to allow the taxmen inside the closely-guarded complex overlooking Biscayne Bay, Blake said.

In 1970, he said, two Air Force jets forced down a chartered county plane taking aerial photos of the area and agents later blacked out portions of the film showing the complex.

According to Blake, tax assessments on the presidential homes are made on the basis of land values and building permits.

Blake said that he had to depend on the word of the President's aides on any taxable improvements not covered by building permits.

"I guess you can say it's on the honor system, but when

the Secret Service says 'no, you just don't argue,' Blake said.

Despite the security blackout, the taxes on Mr. Nixon's properties have continued to increase.

A \$105,265 assessment jumped to \$130,085 in 1973 for the \$125,527 three-bedroom, four-bath house Mr. Nixon bought from former Florida Sen. George Smathers in 1968; and a \$151,733 assessment on the nearby \$127,800 five-bedroom, four-bath home used as an office and for housing presidential aides jumped to \$185,483, Blake said.

He said soaring values of land on Key Biscayne were responsible for the heavy increase.

Mr. Nixon paid \$5,860 in Dade County property taxes for 1973, Blake said.

There are a total of five homes inside the complex and according to a General Services Administration report last June improvements, many of them designed for additional security, totaled \$597,907.