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Work Cited In Size of Nixon Gifts

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President Nixon gave only \$295 to charity in income tax-reportable contributions in 1972 because he was busy with critical decisions on Vietnam at year's end and nobody reminded him, a White House aide said yesterday.

"There was no knowing decision to give only \$295. He never got around to it and nobody reminded him," Richard A. Moore, special counsel to the President, said. It was in December, 1972, that Mr. Nixon, pressing to bring the war to an end, ordered bombing of North Vietnam resumed.

Moore said there was no regular system for determining the President's contributions after 1969, when he moved his residence to California and assigned the task of making out his tax returns to a Los Angeles accountant, Arthur Blech.

Prior to that time, Moore said, Mr. Nixon as a private citizen in New York would sit down with his accountant there each year and review his contributions. That procedure ceased with the switch to California, Moore said.

"When he left New York his business affairs were transferred to the West Coast," the special counsel said. "Once he got in that Oval Office nobody ever got around to dunning the President or reminding him it was charity time."

In the year just ended, Moore said, Rose Mary Woods, the President's personal secretary, "told me she reminded him of it in December and it has been substantially taken care of." But Moore said he did not know how much Mr. Nixon gave to charity in 1973.

The President's income tax returns disclosed last month showed that in addition to the \$295 he gave in 1972, he gave \$3,150 in 1969, \$7,512 in 1970 and \$2,524 in 1971, presidential years when he made \$200,000 in annual salary plus a \$50,000 expense allowance.

Also, in each of the four years, Mr. Nixon received from \$12,000 to \$91,000 in interest and other income.

The White House has also made available a list that indicates the President made

these charitable contributions from 1963 to 1968, before entering the White House:

1963, \$9,214 to 51 charities; 1964, \$14,087.46 to 62; 1965, \$12,943.60 to 77; 1966, \$9,430.03 to 42; 1967, \$7,826.55 to 28; 1968, \$3,307.73 to 19.

This pattern, Moore said, indicated a fairer picture of Mr. Nixon's charitable contributions, during a time when he had a regular arrangement at year's end for reviewing how much he would give, and to which charities.

Moore also said the President seldom carries cash but often gives contributions on the spot. But asked whether he knew if Mr. Nixon gave more than \$295 in 1972, he said he did not.

He cited one occasion when Mr. Nixon borrowed \$20 from White House aide Stephen Bull to put in the plate at a Washington church at services at which John A. Volpe, the ambassador to Rome and John Scali, the ambassador to the United Nations, were honored.

The contribution turned up on Mr. Nixon's return because when Bull returned to the White House he submitted a voucher to Miss Woods for the \$20. At income tax time, as is her custom, she shipped all stubs and receipts to Blech in Los Angeles to prepare the return.

The shipping of the President's financial bills and papers to Blech also accounts for the appearance of a \$1.24 interest charge at Garfinckel's department store in Washington on one of Mr. Nixon's returns, Moore said.

"You know the President didn't claim \$1.24," Moore said. "The accountant did it. That's the way they work. That didn't reflect the President's wishes."

More indicative of the President's attitude toward charities, Moore said, was his contribution of \$1,000 for the Nicaraguan Relief Fund on Jan. 2, 1973—two days after the end of the year in which he gave a total of \$295.

Mr. Nixon made that contribution spontaneously after issuing a statement about the late Roberto Clemente, the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball star who died in a plane crash during Nicaraguan relief work. Mr. Nixon later met with officials of the team and helped form the Roberto Clemente Memorial Fund, Moore said.

Also, he said, Mr. Nixon arranged with Pete Rozelle, commissioner of the National Football League, to show a 30-second television appeal for the fund during the 1973 Super Bowl game between the Miami Dolphins and the Washington Redskins.