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Nixon Homes Spending Hit In Lawsuit

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A suit was filed in U.S. District Court today charging President Nixon illegally and unconstitutionally used up to \$3 million to improve his Key Biscayne and San Clemente retreats.

Reps. Bella S. Abzug, D-N.Y., and Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, announced the filing of the suit, which asks Nixon to make restitution to the U.S. Treasury for the amount of money spent on the private homes in Florida and California.

The suit, which charges the President, the General Services Administration and the Secret Service with illegal use of federal funds, was filed because the home improvement spending was "illegal and unconstitutional and substantially added to the value of his private worth," Abzug said.

"We think the President should give back the money," she said, "and we also want him, the GSA and the Secret Service to be enjoined from spending any more money illegally."

Mrs. Abzug said she supports "legitimate" spending of money for security and communication purposes.

But she said no "justification" existed for spending on beach cabanas at San Clemente and the hiring of a full-time gardener for "routine landscaping functions unrelated to security" at Key Biscayne.

She also cited the purchase of Mexican-style lanterns for the Secret Service guard station gate at San Clemente, custom furniture for Mr. Nixon's den at the California retreat, and an ice-making machine for the Florida hideaway.

"Our lawsuit charges the President with illegally exceeding the law as written by Congress and violating Article II, section 1, of the Constitution," she said. That section bars the President from receiving additional emoluments outside his salary and expenses.