

Secret Report on Cost To U.S. of Nixon's Homes

Washington

A secret report of a House subcommittee looking into federal expenditures for President Nixon's San Clemente and Key Biscayne homes concludes that the government has spent more than 17 million there in five years — "more than the combined salaries of all U.S. Presidents."

To the \$10 million in fixed expenditures already widely reported, the report adds \$7.1 million over the five years for "personnel permanently assigned" to the California and Florida homes. The federal government is currently spending \$1.6 million a year for Secret Service agents and protective officers and personnel in the General Services Administration.

The report labels the \$7.1

million personnel cost "an extravagant expenditure for a facility used only a few days each year."

It also concludes "a sizeable amount of the (\$10 million) expenditures at both San Clemente and Key Biscayne can only be characterized as 'gold plating', and agree that these expenditures did not add to the value of the property." awards:

A House government operations subcommittee Wednesday adopted the report — not yet made public, but made available to the Washington Post — by a straight 6 to 4 party line vote. The Republicans objected loudly that they had no chance to take part in drafting the report and were not given sufficient time to study it.

Ranking Republican John Buchanan of Alabama said he "would be hard pressed to refute allegations" that the report was being rushed out so that it could be used by the judiciary committee, which is looking into im-

peachment.

Subcommittee chairman Representative Jack Brooks (Dem-Texas), who also serves on the judiciary committee, refused comment on whether the report makes any charges that could constitute an impeachable offense.

The report does conclude that there was "an alarming increase in the amount of public funds being diverted to the benefit of private property" and adds that "the primary cause of such an increase is the absence of any self-restraint on the part of the current administration. A President should be cognizant of the effect his individual actions may have in imposing burdens on the taxpayers of the nation. Maintaining three private residences for use a few days each year imposes an unreasonable burden on the public treasury." (The third residence referred to is the home of presidential companion Robert Abplanalp in

the Bahamas.)

"The committee is not concerned with whether or not the President may have incidentally been enriched by legitimate security expenditures," the report goes on, but wants to determine "whether public funds have been misused."

The report charges that in several cases "items were procured by the GSA without the benefit of a Secret Service request ..." (But if some security link could be established subsequent to their procurement, the Secret Service, with proper urging, would generate an after-the-fact request in an effort to legitimize the expenditure."

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A 1969 aerial photo of President Nixon's residence at San Clemente

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