

Anger Over Nixon Homes Report

Washington

The White House condemned the news media yesterday for reporting that \$17 million in taxpayers' money had been spent on President Nixon's homes in Florida and California.

"It's just not true," said press secretary Ronald Ziegler.

The money figure was contained in a supposedly secret report completed Thursday by a House Government Operations subcommittee. Its contents were leaked to newsmen — including the allegation that expenditures totaled more than \$17 million — about \$7 million more than previously reported.

It said the money was spent over a five-year period on communications facilities, office equipment, security, salaries and support items.

The subcommittee chairman, Representative Jack Brooks (Dem-Tex.) called it a "fair and objective appraisal" of spending on Mr.

Nixon's homes. But Ziegler thought otherwise.

"A partisan Democrat (Brooks) releases a figure of \$17 million and the media absorbs it like a sponge and reports it as being spent on the President's homes," Ziegler said.

"These are not expenditures on the President's private homes. They are five-year costs for communications, office equipment, salaries and support costs," he said.

The ranking Republican on the subcommittee, Representative John H. Buchanan of Alabama, called a news conference to denounce the report as a "total distortion." He said only \$205,000 of the total amount was spent on the homes with the remainder going for support facilities that included



JOHN BUCHANAN
'Total distortion'



JACK BROOKS
'Fair and objective'

the salaries of federal employees.

"I just don't want the American people to get the idea that \$17 million was spent to fix up the President's property," Buchanan said. "It's that \$17 million figure that will be in the headlines and people will fix on."

Ziegler recalled that the White House itself issued a report itemizing support costs amounting \$10 million at the President's homes. He said this had disclosed that the amount of money spent on the President's homes and properties for security purposes was "no more than \$200,000, or something close to that."

He added, "but the American people keep getting it hammered home to them that millions of dollars have been spent on the President's homes."

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