

A Story 'for the Birds'

Pat Nixon yesterday labeled "for the birds" a Washington Post story Tuesday disclosing gifts of jewelry to her and her daughters from the royal family of Saudi Arabia.

"That's for the birds," Mrs. Nixon told a reporter who asked her to comment on the story by Maxine Cheshire which revealed that among the jewels was a five-piece matched set of emeralds and diamonds worth more than \$52,400.

Referring to what a White House spokesman described as "a great many" telephone calls in the First Lady's de-

fense, Mrs. Nixon continued, "Everybody who has read it said it was for the birds, from coast to coast."

Mrs. Nixon began her rebuttal by cutting short a reporter who began, "Mrs. Nixon, I have to ask you this question."

"Oh, no, you don't have to ask me any questions unless it's about this group," Mrs. Nixon interrupted, referring to 150 wives of representatives to the Pacific Basin Economic Council whom she was entertaining at a Blair House tea.

The White House confirmed Tuesday that the

Nixon women had received three sets of jewels from King Faisal and his two half-brothers but described them as "perfectly proper," saying they were "public property" which will go to a "public repository" after Mr. Nixon leaves office.

The White House has refused to allow reporters to examine records to determine what other gifts may have been received by the Nixons, maintaining that files are confidential and disclosure could embarrass foreign donors.

—Donnie Radcliffe