

House Panel Reports U.S. Spent 5.9-Million on Johnson in Texas

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WASHINGTON, May 24 (AP) —The House Government Operations Committee said yesterday that Federal expenditures on former President Lyndon B. Johnson's property had totaled \$5.9-million.

The committee said that most of the funds had been spent on security facilities. The committee disclosed earlier that \$17.1-million had been spent on homes used by President Nixon, also mainly in the name of security.

A spokesman for the Government activities subcommittee said that much of the equipment installed while Mr. Johnson was in office was still in place. The Secret Service continues to guard his widow, Lady Bird Johnson.

Communications at Ranch

The committee said the Department of Defense and the White House Communications Agency had spent an estimated total of \$3,573,000 for communications support in connection with the LBJ Ranch in Texas.

The \$5.9-million also includes \$770,000 for Mr. Johnson's Austin, Tex., office; \$15,000 for installation and repair of Secret Service facilities at Mr. Johnson's Haywood Ranch, where he occasionally went boating; and \$34,000 for work at a hangar on the LBJ ranch "to accommodate news conferences, television broadcasts and the entertainment of foreign dignitaries."

Also included were \$29,400 for security lighting, guardhouses and trailers, \$3,400 for stone walls and fences and \$1,300 for strobe and beacon lights to facilitate helicopter landings.

Meanwhile, members of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee put the White House on notice that a bill providing for new Presidential expenses faced rough going on the House floor.

Udall Foresees Trouble

That view was expressed to Roy L. Ash, chief of the Office of Management and Budget, who was testifying for the bill.

"This is a sensitive bill," said Representative Morris K. Udall, Democrat of Arizona. "When it reaches the floor there very well could be trouble."

Representative Edward J. Derwinski, Republican of Illinois, said the bill presented "an open invitation to justified demagoguery."

The bill would authorize about \$19-million for White House staff salaries, expenses, travel, Presidential entertainment of the White House; \$1-million for a Presidential contingency fund; and \$920,000 for the staff of the Vice President. The bill does not cover Secret Service security, military budget items for White House aircraft, Park Service upkeep of the White House grounds and other costs covered elsewhere in the budget.