

Arab jewels given to wives of

By Maxine Cheshire
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WASHINGTON — Valuable jewels have been given by Arab royalty to the wives of former Vice President Agnew, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman S. William Fulbright and former Secretary of State William P. Rogers as well as to First Lady Pat Nixon.

The gifts, from leaders of oil-rich Middle Eastern nations, are public property under the law. Received in 1971 and 1972, the jewels

have only recently been turned in to the Protocol Office of the State Department for cataloguing and disposition. They include:

- A set of diamonds and pearls (necklace, bracelet, earrings and ring) given to Mrs. Agnew in July, 1971 by the Crown Prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaher al Ahmad al-Jaber.

- A set of rubies and diamonds (necklace, bracelet, earrings and ring) given to Mrs. Rogers in 1972 by the Emir of Kuwait.

- A set of emeralds and diamonds (necklace, bracelet, earrings and ring) sent to Mrs. Fulbright in 1972 by the minister of petroleum of the oil-producing sheikdom of Abu Dhabi.

The Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, amended in 1966 to bar foreign largess to U.S. officials and their families, specifies that all gifts valued at more than \$50 are legally the property of the U.S. government and must be turned over to the chief

Agnew, Rogers

of protocol's office at the State Department for cataloguing and disposition. The U.S. Constitution bars officials themselves from taking such gifts.

State Department officials said last week that the lapse in time between the gifts and their processing points up one of the weaknesses of the 1966 law, legislation they consider vague and without teeth.

The law, they say, puts the responsibility for disclos-

ing such gifts up to the recipient and leaves the chief of protocol, the designated

watchdog, little more than a clerk — powerless to assure compliance.

It was disclosed last month that a diamond bracelet and two jeweled brooches given to Mrs. Nixon and her daughters by a Saudian Arabian prince July 1, 1972, were not received in the White House Gifts Unit for processing until last March 28.