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Gift Reports Surge After Disclosure

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Since it was disclosed that Mrs. Nixon and her daughters had received lavish gifts of jewelry from Saudi Arabian royalty, dozens of valuable gifts to other U.S. officials and their families have flowed into the State Department's Protocol Office.

The influx of gifts to former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and his family, former Secretary of State and Mrs. William P. Rogers, to Sen. and Mrs. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) have highlighted deficiencies in the system under which foreign gifts worth more than \$50 are supposed to be handled and in the 1966 legislation that attempted to regulate the system.

The 1966 law held that valuable gifts to U.S. officials or their families were the property of the United States and designated the Protocol Office as the agency to which all such gifts were to be delivered for cataloguing and disposition.

Under the Nixon administration a "Gifts Unit"—whose records are closed—was set up in the White House to catalogue foreign presidential gifts. At least one valuable set of jewelry to the Nixon family was not properly processed through the White House unit until its existence was disclosed last month.

Protocol officials concede that because of ambiguities and a lack of sanctions in the law, they have no way to keep track of gifts unless or until the recipient turns them over.

(Details on Page B1)



Jeweled dagger given Vice President Agnew in 1971 by Saudi Arabia's King Faisal.