

Nixon's Bank Accounts Not Checked

By Jack Anderson

At least five separate federal investigations have been conducted into President Nixon's personal finances, but no government agent has yet had the audacity to make a check-by-check, deposit-by-deposit examination of the President's personal bank accounts.

Not even the House impeachment investigators, who are supposed to be doing a detailed study of the President's financial dealings, have requested access to his bank records.

Congressional sleuths and Internal Revenue Service agents have conducted exhaustive investigations of his financial transactions, including his acquisition of the San Clemente and Key Biscayne estates; but apparently the government gumshoes still hold the President too much in awe to subject him to the same kind of intensive scrutiny that other citizens have endured.

Kremlin Obstruction—Secret intelligence reports indicate that the Kremlin was upset at Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's success in negotiating a Syrian-Israeli truce.

Contrary to press accounts, the intelligence reports declare that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko was dispatched to Damascus not to aid in the negotiations, but to obstruct them.

This coincides with a hardening of the Kremlin's attitude toward the United States. Soviet leaders have expressed their displeasure privately over Congress' failure to ratify trade concessions. They have dropped dark remarks about the President's failure to make his promises good.

Perhaps the Soviets are merely bolstering their bargaining position on the eve of the Moscow summit meeting. But it is beginning to look as if the President will have to make substantial concessions to bring home an agreement, which he desperately needs to restore public confidence in his leadership.

Brass Ring—The front pages have been exploding with headlines about the villains in the drama of government. But there have been heroes, too, whose names have attracted less attention. Today we award the brass ring, good for a free ride on the Washington Merry-Go-Round, to three of those heroes.

Stanley Sporkin stood tall among those caught in the spotlight of the Robert Vesco case. For a \$200,000 cash contribution delivered in a black attache case, Vesco tried to stop the Securities and Exchange Commission from investigating his financial empire.

Two former Cabinet officers, Attorney General John N.

Mitchell and Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans, were acquitted of bribery; but the testimony was clear that they tried to help Vesco.

The more political pressure brought on Sporkin, however, the harder he pressed the case against Vesco. Sporkin is known around the SEC as a man who hates corruption, who can't be pressured, who puts the public interest ahead of all else.

Richard Sprague, an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia, wouldn't rest after the brutal murder of mine-workers' champion Joseph Yablonski, his wife and daughter, until the man who ordered it was convicted. In time, the dogged Sprague nailed former mine-workers' boss Tony Boyle for masterminding the murder.

Of more than 70 homicide cases Sprague has brought to trial, he has lost only one, which was reduced to a lesser charge. Yet Sprague has worked equally hard, when his cases have been weak, to prove the innocence of men he was supposed to prosecute. Associates describe Sprague as "a man with an absolute sense of public duty."

Seymour Glanzer, probably more than any other single individual, deserves credit for breaking the Watergate case. Those familiar with the work of the original Watergate prosecu-

tors agree that Glanzer usually asked the sharpest questions.

Veteran trial lawyer John J. Wilson, in reviewing for the President the case against his clients H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, feared Glanzer the most, calling him "a fire-eating prosecutor."

Yet surprisingly, Glanzer was also the loudest in upholding the rights of the accused. Associates say he agonizes over the frailties in the judicial system and always puts justice ahead of convictions.

Washington Whirl—We reported on March 7 that all but four of the 23 Watergate grand jurors wanted "to hold President Nixon accountable" for the Watergate cover-up. This, secret 19-to-0 vote, with the four absent, made headlines last week . . . Clinton Harris, a racing-boat driver who named his boat the Miss U.S. Watergate, recently tested it on the murky waters of the Potomac. While he was streaking across the surface, the bottom suddenly, unaccountably fell out from underneath him. The boat sank . . . A recent public-opinion poll, asking voters whom they selected in the 1972 presidential election, showed that Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) should have carried both California and Indiana. In the actual election, of course, he lost both states by wide margins.

©1974, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.