

Why Nixon Can't Answer His Mail

Washington

More than 200,000 letters to former President Nixon are sitting unanswered in San Clemente because there's no money to pay for the stationery. But help is on the way, the government's general services administrator said yesterday.

Arthur F. Sampson said his agency is pushing for approval so that presidential transition funds can be rushed to Mr. Nixon's office in the next few days.

Federal law authorizes \$450,000 for an outgoing president to spend on the winding down of his presidential affairs. But because Mr. Nixon's abrupt depar-

ture from office hadn't been planned for in the federal budget, the money hadn't been appropriated.

With Congress about to recess until after Labor Day, Sampson and a congressional staff member working on the problem said it is likely that interim authority will be granted to send money to Mr. Nixon's office before a supplemental appropriation is voted by Congress.

The three principal aides working for Mr. Nixon at San Clemente are still on the White House payroll. The transition money is needed for office supplies, shipment of papers and the like.

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