

Severance pay, cont'd: 'Considerable cut' due

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WASHINGTON — A House subcommittee intends to trim the \$850,000 request for former President Nixon's transition to private life.

"You can safely say it will be cut considerably," said Chairman Tom Steed, D-Okla., of the House executive offices appropriations subcommittee, which took up the matter today.

Steed said many congressmen don't want to approve a nickel for Nixon because of President Ford's pardon for him.

But Steed said Nixon, as well as any other former President, deserves transition money and said he hopes his subcommittee can cut it to expenses so well justified that Congress will approve it.

"This is an emotional

thing," Steed said. "Unless we're able to bring out a tight, well-documented bill it will be in serious trouble. And from the tone over in the Senate I think it may be in serious trouble there, too."

He referred to the Senate appropriations subcommittee hearing yesterday at which Chairman Joseph Montoya, D-N.M., told General Services Administration chief Arthur Sampson he was "given a snow job" by former Nixon aides.

Montoya made the comment when Sampson said Nixon aides Ronald Ziegler and Stephen Bull told him at a San Clemente, Calif., meeting how Nixon needed the \$850,000.

Montoya and Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., sharply questioned why Nixon needed more than twice the

\$370,000 transition money that went to former President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Sampson testified that a special \$100,000 Watergate tapes vault is required under the agreement for safeguarding the tapes over the next five years. He said it would have a sophisticated alarm system and would be guarded by five guards at a cost of \$50,000 a year.

Montoya and Hatfield questioned why the tapes and documents could not be stored in some secure federal office building and also why Nixon needs so much money for other chores after the millions of federal dollars already spent at San Clemente and Key Biscayne, Fla.

He said government-owned equipment would stay at San Clemente until Nixon decided not to use the office.