

Democrats

# Opposition to Money for Nixon

Washington

An \$850,000 request to finance former President Nixon's transition to private life ran into bitter opposition yesterday in a House appropriations subcommittee.

Democratic members said the amounts sought from Congress were excessive and one member, Representative George E. Shipley (Dem-Ill.) said, "I don't think the country will stand for it."

Representative Louis Stokes (Dem-Ohio) said of Mr. Nixon: "As one who has been pardoned from crimes, he is of less worth to the world than one who left in good grace."

Arthur F. Sampson, administrator of the General Services Administration, which will pay out the funds, underwent sharp day-long questioning from the subcommittee on the supplemental financing requests.

The money would be provided under two separate laws, an annual fund made available for all former presidents—including pension, offices and a staff—and a one-time fund for transi-

tional expenses, including assistance in declassifying presidential papers.

GSA is seeking \$400,000 under the Former Presidents Law and \$450,000 in transitional expenses.

Sampson revealed that GSA, even before getting congressional approval of the request has obligated \$6000 to pay for stationery to answer 350,000 letters Mr. Nixon has received since resigning.

Representative Howard W. Robinson (Rep-N.Y.) defended the requests and said, "Nixon is entitled to whatever he needs. It is our responsibility not to classify former Presidents as good ones or bad ones but to make the transition as smoothly as possible."

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