

\$850,000

# For Nixon Faces Cuts

By Richard L. Lyons

Washington Post Staff Writer

Critical Democrats on a House Appropriations subcommittee gave clear indication yesterday that they will make sizable cuts in the \$850,000 requested for former President Nixon's personal and staff allowances for 11 months. The reception was even less friendly than that of a similar Senate subcommittee on Wednesday.

The requests are divided into two funds under two different laws—\$450,000 for a six-month transition process of answering mail and arranging presidential records, and \$400,000 for the first year's \$60,000 annual pension plus staff and office allowances for Mr. Nixon's permanent role as a former President.

General Services Administrator Arthur F. Sampson said the money should be provided so Mr. Nixon "can maintain a creative presence as an adviser in national and international life," and so that his records can be sorted and arranged for history.

Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) asked why Mr. Nixon, who resigned in the face of impeachment, "should be placed in the same category as Presidents who served with honor and left office with honor and prestige."

Sampson replied that, regardless of the reason for his departure, the history of the Nixon administration will be of interest in the future and that money should be provided to arrange and interpret the records.

Rep. Tom Bevill (D-Ala.) argued that there is no assurance that the United States will ever receive any of the Nixon papers or taped conversations. An agreement signed by Mr. Nixon and Sampson last week provides that the government will keep possession of his papers for five years and his tapes for three years. But after that, said Bevill, the former President could sell his papers and could

order the destruction of all the tapes according to the terms of the agreement.

Sampson noted that Mr. Nixon said he intended to donate substantial portions of his records to the government, but conceded there was no ironclad assurance that he would do so.

Bevill said all the agreement meant was that "the former President has given the government the privilege of protecting his personal records."

Sampson said the agreement was drawn up and signed quickly in an effort to beat an expected ruling by Attorney General William B. Saxbe that Mr. Nixon owned his presidential records and could take them away immediately. Saxbe issued such an opinion on Sept. 7, the day that Sampson signed the agreement which Mr. Nixon had signed the previous day. The agreement assures that the records will be available for court trials for three to five years, Sampson said.

Rep. George E. Shipley (D-Ill.) said his mail was running overwhelming against providing the \$850,000 and that he would vote for nothing except Mr. Nixon's pension, which is ordered by law.

Sampson revised upward from 13 to 21 the number of federal employees on loan to Mr. Nixon for up to six months. They include the Nixons' valet and maid, who are carried on the payroll of the National Park Service.