

Nixon's gifts held up

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gifts to former President Richard Nixon and his family, that fill more than 1,000 crates and boxes are being detained by the government, a General Services Administration spokesman said today.

The spokesman said the containers, which include gifts to the Nixons from foreign leaders, are being held in Washington pending formal release by the White House.

"We are not under orders not to ship the gifts, but we will not ship them until we get clearance from the White House," the spokesman said.

He said the GSA considers foreign gifts worth more than \$50 the property of the U.S. government, as federal law dictates.

"The gifts are now being held in the National Archives," the spokesman said. He said the containers hold "literally all kinds of things, ranging from potholders to valuable jewels."

The spokesman said he could not confirm a report by the Washington Post that President Ford's counsel, Philip Buchen, instructed GSA chief Arthur Sampson not to ship the gifts to San Clemente.

The Post, in a copyrighted article in Sunday editions by Maxine Cheshire, quoted sources as saying the gifts to Nixon may be worth as much as \$2 million.