

Montoya Expects His Panel To Halve Nixon Funds Bill

By Richard L. Lyons
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Sen. Joseph M. Montoya (D-N.M.) believes the taxpayers should not be asked to provide former President Nixon a butler, a maid, three military drivers and 186 chairs, 44 desks, 21 davenportes and 39 typewriters for his office in San Clemente.

So when his Senate Appropriations subcommittee meets today to act on an administration request, Montoya said he expects that the \$850,000 being sought will be cut about in half. And he will ask also that language be written into the bill to somehow limit the now unlimited number of federal employees that may be furnished free to the former President during his first six months in private life.

Montoya held a second hearing yesterday to ask General Services Administrator Arthur F. Sampson why that much money was needed to support Mr. Nixon for a year. Roy L. Ash, federal budget chief, also testified.

They produced these figures:

- Twenty-two federal employees have been detailed to help Mr. Nixon for part or all of the first six-month transition period at a cost of about \$228,000 plus per diem of up to \$40 for each of those working away from home.

- In addition, four GSA maintenance workers costing \$53,566 a year will be stationed at two GSA-rented buildings next to Mr. Nixon's Key Biscayne home for the next three months "phasing out" that Florida operation and deciding what communications and protective equipment can be salvaged. A Secret Service detail will remain there for the same purpose at a cost of about \$100,000.

- The annual cost of Secret Service protection for Mr. Nixon and his family is now \$622,000.

- At San Clemente Mr. Nixon will be provided office space so long as he wishes it in a building constructed for his use while President on adjoining Coast Guard property. He will have available office furniture valued by GSA at \$28,874. This includes 186 chairs, 44 desks, 42 tables and 19 typewriters (increased to 39 during the six-month transition period to answer about 500,000 pieces of mail).

- Mr. Nixon will also have available permanently, for his residence den, office furniture which GSA values at \$4834.50.

Montoya had asked the advice of Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats on the request for Mr. Nixon, and received an opinion that Mr. Nixon did qualify for benefits as a former President, including a \$60,000 annual pension, despite the circumstances of his resignation. But Staats suggested that Montoya carefully review the list of federal employees detailed to Mr. Nixon.

"It is not apparent to us," wrote Staats, how a butler, maid and three military drivers "would be used by a former President in connection with winding up his affairs."

Montoya put this question to Sampson and Ash. Sampson replied that he had "raised the question" with Ronald L. Ziegler, Mr. Nixon's top aide, and was told that Manolo and Fina Sanchez, butler and maid on the National Park Service payroll for a total of \$20,000 a year, were helping to settle the former first family's "personal affairs."

Montoya asked how shining shoes or making beds could be legitimate costs of presidential transition. Ash replied that, to the extent that the Sanchezs' assistance freed Mr. Nixon for transitional matters, it could be considered appropriate. As for the military drivers Ash suggested they might be used to move mail.

Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) complained that the administration kept changing the number of employees detailed to Mr. Nixon and said he felt he was being given a "bureaucratic fast shuffle." Montoya called the office furniture figures of more type-

writers than employees "absurd" and "inconceivable." Sampson said the estimate of 14 permanent employees for Mr. Nixon would be increased by part-time workers during the transition to answer mail.

In other congressional actions concerning Mr. Nixon:

Chairman Chet Holifield (D-Calif.) of the House Government Operations Committee said he would give "immediate attention" to a bill approved by his Senate committee counterpart Tuesday which directs the government to keep possession of Mr. Nixon's presidential records despite an agreement with Sampson to

ship the records to California where they would be under Mr. Nixon's control.

Rep. William L. Hungate (D-Mo.), chairman of a House Judiciary subcommittee, sent a second request to President Ford for replies to questions about his reasons for granting Mr. Nixon a full pardon. Hungate also asked that Philip W. Buchen, one of Mr. Ford's legal advisers, or someone equally knowledgeable about circumstances of the pardon, appear before Hungate's subcommittee next Tuesday. Hungate felt Mr. Ford's answer to a previous request for information was unresponsive.

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