

# Too much

**THE CURRENT** lavish bestowal of money and services on Richard Nixon to help his transition to private life far exceeds any obligation the country owes the disgraced former President. Congress should reduce these extravagant benefactions to a reasonable level.

Even had Mr. Nixon left the Presidency with honor unblemished, the public would be justified in questioning many of the current expenditures. These costs represent a trend toward an imperial Presidency that, to be fair about it, did not begin with Mr. Nixon. But this is the place to stop them.

Former Presidents must of course receive government appropriations to help their return to private life. Much of the transition work they must do is an extension of government business and should be cleaned up at government expense. But there must be limits. Mr. Nixon's request for \$850,000 deserves the critical scrutiny it is receiving from a skeptical Senate committee.

**LIFE AT SAN CLEMENTE** goes on at a royal scale. It is fair to ask why a private person needs a \$25,000-a-year military aide, or three military chauffeurs. Or why this private person is entitled to a butler and maid whose salaries are paid by the National Park Service. Or why the government should pay \$80,000 a year to maintain a private property, San Clemente. Or maintain another at Key Biscayne. Add to this a million dollars for the Secret Service at both establishments.

Mr. Nixon is entitled to a skeleton force to clean up his government business. He is entitled to his \$60,000-a-year pension. He is entitled to some Secret Service protection. Anything more cannot be justified.