

# U.S. Still Paying For Key Biscayne



**Jack Anderson**

**D**ESPITE all the rhubarb over secret expenditures on former President Nixon's estates in Florida and California, federal money is still being poured into the Key Biscayne compound.

A team of General Services Administration (GSA) workmen are busily ripping out partitions and repairing walls in at least two of the buildings just as if Watergate never happened.

And seven Secret Service men are still puttering around the premises on vague security details, even though the former President has not even visited Key Biscayne since he left office on August 9.

When we approached the GSA concerning the continued use of federal manpower and material for the Nixon home, a spokesman huffily denied any such activities.

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**B**UT WHEN my associate Bob Owens pointed out that, posing as a sandle-shod Florida tourist, he had observed the comings and goings of the government workmen, GSA conceded repair work was going on.

It was only to "restore" the homes of Mr. Nixon and other rented dwellings in the compound to their pre-presidential condition, the GSA said. One of the homes under repair is owned by Nixon crony Robert Abplanalp.

Actually, the government had already done considerable work on Abplanalp's

home. While it was being used by the White House, it got a \$1667 paint job and other improvements.

The GSA said the new work would be completed by Christmas, although the negotiations to get compensation from Mr. Nixon for improvements on the Key Biscayne property may go on for months.

Still at issue, for instance, is whether the Nixon-designed "security fence," costing \$66,314, and \$4786 worth of carnation hibiscus shrubs surrounding it will be paid for by the ex-President.

The Secret Service, meanwhile, has pulled out most of its detection equipment. And the Navy has removed the \$20,267 shark net which had protected the waterfront swimming areas of Mr. Nixon and his friend Bebe Rebozo.

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**W**ASHINGTON WHIRL: The Drug Enforcement Agency is investigating a Midwestern congressman who has been accused of slipping drugs to his swinging friends. Informants have told federal narcotics agents that the congressman has been passing around cocaine. We spoke to the accused congressman who vehemently denied the charges. . . President Ford is studying three social programs that will upset his conservative supporters: a federal jobs program in case unemployment hits the predicted seven per cent, a limited guaranteed income for the impoverished and national health insurance.