

□ filed ~~Ford~~ Nixon,
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From story by Maxine Cheshire:

"The Ford Administration is preparing to announce a new record-keeping system that would provide for full public disclosure of all gifts to the First Family from heads of state and other foreign officials.

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"It is the Chief of Protocol who is charged, under the federal rules and regulations implementing the 1966 gift act, with keeping records of such gifts to either civilian or military personnel in all three branches of government.

"He has done so in the past for everyone except for former President Richard M. Nixon and his family.

"Nixon's advisers, deciding in 1969 that the First Family was 'probably exempt' from the law, decided to keep their records in the White House Gifts Unit. In order to be in compliance, should Congress ever raise the issue, the Nixon administration officials gave the Chief of Protocol 'access.' That 'access' apparently was never used, however.

"The Nixons' records, and the gifts themselves, are currently in a legal limbo that may not be resolved for months, or even years.

"The Ford administration has impounded all records and gifts left behind in Washington when the Nixons left for San Clemente after his resignation. But many gifts and records are scattered elsewhere, including San Clemente."

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