

Half of Last Flight Being Billed to Nixon

United Pres. International

Somewhere over Jefferson City, Mo., on Aug. 9, Richard M. Nixon not only lost the presidency but cost-free travel aboard Air Force One, the White House said yesterday.

Thus the former President is being charged for the last half of his flight from the White House to San Clemente, Calif., press secretary Ron Nessen told reporters.

Responding to a report by columnists Jack Anderson and Les Whitten that appeared in yesterday's Washington Post, Nessen released the figures he had available on Nixon's costs during the five-month post-presidential transition period for which Congress appropriated \$200,000 on his behalf.

Anderson and Whitten reported that the former President had spent \$367,000 to adjust to private life. Nessen said he did not know whether Nixon had actually overspent the congressional appropriation, since the report he had covered expenditures only up to Nov. 7 and includes items not provided for in the transition legislation.

Nixon's being billed for half of his last trip on Air Force One was one of a long list of expenditures Nessen cited from a report by Office Management and Budget Director Roy L. Ash to Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.). Nessen said he did not know how much of the authorized \$200,000 Nixon had spent to date.

Other items on the list:

- \$107,000 in salaries for White House, Defense Department and other government agency employees assigned by law to aid the transition. Nessen said this item is not charged to the \$200,000 transition fund.
- \$47,000 on living expenses for those detailed to Nixon, also not charged against the fund.
- \$8,440 charged against Nixon's \$200,000 for his share of the Aug. 9 Air Force One flight.
- An unknown figure for moving the Nixon family Aug. 9 from the air base at El Toro, Calif., where Air Force One landed, to San Clemente.
- \$3,147 in packing and moving costs for Nixon family goods, most of it not charged to the fund.
- \$2,000, not to be charged to Nixon, for the cost of gasoline of 12 automobiles used by government employees serving Nixon.
- \$9,000 for such Nixon office expenses as handling a million pieces of mail, to be taken from the \$200,000.
- \$83,00 for crating and storing Nixon White House documents and tapes, not to be charged to Nixon.
- \$30,000 for courier flights and White House communication to and from San Clemente, some of which will be charged to Nixon's fund.
- \$52,160 in costs to the General Services Administration in operating congressionally approved offices for the former President, most of it not to be borne by Nixon.
- \$34,540 in costs to the GSA in keeping up the Nixon office at the former President's Key Biscayne, Fla., estate. This stopped Dec. 31, Nessen said, and most of the costs will be borne by the government.