

Nixon Set To Donate Documents

By Randolph E. Schmid
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Former President Nixon plans to donate 1,300 cubic feet of pre-presidential papers to the United States, the General Services Administration said yesterday.

GSA Administrator Arthur F. Sampson said he had accepted the materials from the 1946-66 period on behalf of the United States and they would be stored at a National Archives facility at Laguna Niguel, Calif.

In his letter offering to donate the papers, Nixon had asked that they be kept at a facility "reasonably accessible" to his San Clemente, Calif., home.

Papers and other materials dealing with Nixon's years as President remain in Washington under court order.

A special three-judge court is to consider ownership of the presidential papers, which have been the subject of legal action. A lower court ruled that the presidential papers are the property of the country and not Nixon, but that order was stayed pending a decision of the special panel.

In his Jan. 28 letter to Sampson, Nixon said he plans to make the pre-presidential papers "available for the purpose of study and research as soon as possible and to the fullest extent possible."

However, he reserved the right to impose restrictions on their use and availability.

"Upon completion of a Richard Nixon Library and its acceptance by the United States, it is my present intent to deposit the materials in that library," Nixon wrote of the pre-presidential papers.

The Nixon Foundation, set up by Nixon in 1969 with the goal of creating a presidential library and museum, has been dissolved.

A previous Nixon donation of pre-presidential papers became a center of controversy while he was still in the White House. On his 1969 income tax return Nixon claimed a large deduction for the earlier donation. A new law carried a July 26, 1969, cutoff date for such donation and income tax materials indicating that the donation had been made before that time, were submitted. Those materials were later determined to have been illegally back-dated.