

Nixon Not Charged for Some Costs

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

Richard Nixon had \$33.35 left over, according to a confidential audit, from the \$100,000 that Congress granted him to cover his transition expenses. He managed to stay within the allotment, however, only because the government generously didn't charge him for the big expenses.

For instance, the taxpayers were stuck with \$265,580 in salaries for 54 federal employees who continued to work at the San Clemente, Calif., compound. Among those whose salaries weren't charged to Nixon, as we previously reported, were his personal butler, maid, three chauffeurs and a medical corpsman.

In addition, eight Navy mess stewards worked at San Clemente during Nixon's adjustment to civilian status. The General Accounting Office, which conducted the confidential audit, offered this justification: "They were used primarily to dismantle the kitchen equipment," which had been installed for Nixon while he was President.

Nixon also should have paid rent for his office space at an annual rate of \$77,470. But under the law, the General Services Administration could waive the rent. He was granted such a waiver last August.

Of course, Congress never expected the Nixons to pay the an-

nual \$622,000 cost of their Secret Service protection out of the transition budget. The GAO also decided that the government communications staff assigned to Nixon shouldn't be counted as a transition expense.

Here's how Nixon spent the transition money:

●He shelled out \$14,466.46 for office furnishings, which, the GAO suggested happily, "can be recovered when they are no longer needed." Not counted were five color TV sets, which the White House Communications Agency declared surplus and left to Nixon.

●An astonishing \$52,815.95 was spent for stationery. This bought "over 460,000 sheets, 260,000 envelopes and 20,000 each of three kinds of acknowledgment cards with envelopes." Apparently, Nixon was stocking up for the future, since most of the stationery is still unused. Another \$12,000 went for postage.

●Nixon spent \$75, according to the audit, to change his safe combinations. He also paid \$896 for picture mounting supplies. These miscellaneous expenses were listed, curiously, as part of a \$9,430.37 expenditure for "record preservation and copying work."

●Another \$6,505.30 went to pay for news service teletypes, telephone service and connection charges. Nixon wasn't billed, however, for the three courier flights that brought him security briefings, although "some passengers and some of

Nixon's personal belongings were also on these flights."

●And \$4,748.57 was paid out in "personal service costs." This category included detailed employees from various agencies and three people who were hired to assist them.

A separate, confidential report, prepared for House Government Operations Committee Chairman Jack Brooks (D-Tex.) discloses that it cost the taxpayers \$118,076.93 to "deactivate" the Nixon compound at Key Biscayne, Fla.

This didn't include \$1,780 spent to improve Nixon's heating system, \$738.95 for wiring improvements, \$1,520 for sod and \$2,000 to prevent beach erosion. Nixon was also bequeathed, courtesy of the taxpayers, storm shutters worth \$1,081.20, a \$390.18 privacy screen and a \$119.75 Sears washing machine.

An additional \$124,041.36 was spent for the "disposal by demolition" of a security building that Nixon no longer wanted on his Florida property.

As part of the deactivation, the government spent \$10,800 to remove bulletproof glass and replace it with plate glass windows, \$6,604.57 to remove a screening hedge and \$15,950 to restore the walls around the compound.

From all the Nixon property, the government now has in its warehouses \$128,708 worth of bulletproof glass, a \$65,770 security fence, a \$314 seawall lad-

der, a \$125.95 boat trailer and assorted items of furniture running into the thousands.

Some items have been transferred to other agencies. The Air Force claimed two Nixon beds worth \$269.80, two golf carts valued at \$3,030 and a five-gallon bottle stopper listed at \$3.05.

The General Services Administration got Nixon's famous \$621.50 icemaker, which produced square cubes "because the President doesn't like ice cubes with holes in them."

Church for President — Supporters of Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) are frustrated over his refusal to enter his name in the presidential sweepstakes. He has forbidden them from seeking the Democratic presidential nomination in his behalf as long as he is running the Senate investigation of the CIA and FBI.

Church has told them firmly that he doesn't want to mix presidential politics in any way with the investigation. Yet he continues to stir enthusiasm for his candidacy in the attitudes he expresses toward government.

In condemning CIA assassination plots, for example, he declared strongly: "The notion that we must mimic the Communists and abandon our principles (is)... an abomination."

Then he added emphatically: "Ours is not a wicked country, and we cannot abide a wicked government."

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