

'Accountability Gap' At Nixon White House

Washington

An audit of the Nixon White House books reveals a "total lack of accountability of public funds" including the disappearance of 58 typewriters worth \$18,000, Representative Jack Brooks (Dem-Tex.) said yesterday.

Brooks said the General Accounting Office audited the White House books from January of 1969 through Aug. 9, 1974 — Mr. Nixon's term in office — at the request of President Ford's counsel, Philip Buchen.

Brooks released a copy of the audit from GAO, an investigative arm of Congress, and said the House Government Operations Committee, of which he is chairman, "found similar loose accounting practices" in its own investigation of government expenditures at former President Nixon's homes in Key Biscayne, Fla., and San Clemente, Calif.

"Checks were issued to White House staffers on the basis of handwritten notes, bills were paid without getting any receipts and supplies procured without pur-

chase orders," he said.

"An inventory of typewriters, taken at the GAO's request, disclosed 58 typewriters worth \$18,000 missing or unaccounted for," Brooks said.

The report said a sampling of expenditures made in 1969 showed "19 per cent did not have either a procurement authorization or a receipt as required under government procedures."

By the time Mr. Nixon resigned, the report said, "the number of transactions without proper documentation had risen to 61 per cent."

The GAO said one example was a check for \$2739 for a "dinner party" paid on the basis of "a handwritten note without any bill or authorization."

Brooks said the GAO also found that the White House took \$33,656 from a CIA account "to pay the costs of replying to persons who wrote to Nixon after the invasion of Cambodia in 1970.

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