

Freep 9/29/72 "Secrecy Surrounds Western White House".

OCT 23 1972

Somebody missed a real bet not filing on the freedom-of-information request for info of GSA. There is a law under which it can be done if they don't answer.

Aside from the inferences of this story and what it does not report, that the Secret Service paid for major repairs to the residence on the ground the heating system was part of its security problem, there are large areas that should be explored. Example: were buildings erected on Nixon's land? If so, they become his property.

At Ike's farm, where I was when he was President, this was so little it could be ignored. There were electrical things that were worthless (somebody actually stole his Canada hunker male!). They couldn't have cost much. The dairy attached to the bank barn was converted into SS hq. And that was it. He had only a regular Southern States Coop gate.

A couple of one-holer sized guard boxes for bad weather, too.

How about at Key Biscayne? Same thing there. I understand that compound includes several properties besides his and Bebe's. All the improvements remain behind.

If the government bought any of those building, you can be sure they'll be sold to Nixon for his post-Presidency security, and low.

I've written about his purchase of the Homer Cummings property in Spring Valley. Deal scandal.

There is a helluva story in Nixon's abhorrence of Washington but the press won't touch. They yowled with FDR when he went to Warm Springs; over Truman's trips to Key West. Remember the Fala story? Even Ike and the bulls. But here you have the fantastic cost of flying Nixon and so many others all the time and all around, mostly to Fla and Calif. And then all the planes required to fly people to and from him. And their wasted time. etc. ad nauseum. But not a peep. I really think he must have spent almost as much time away from the White House as in it. Which surely proves than anybody can be President.

The country acts like it is rudderless anyway. Except when it looks worse, like he is steering.

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