Cost to Taxpayers of 2 Other ‘White Houses’

Tax-Paid Bill Near $2 Million

Nixon’s Calif., Florida Homes

By William O’Brien

Taxpayer-financed improvements at President Nixon’s homes at San Clemente and in Florida have cost nearly $2 million, the General Services Administration revealed here and in Washington, D.C.

Fix-up projects at the San Clemente retreat have cost $708,367 since July, 1968, a total of $2,000,000 above any press speculation about what the Western White House has cost the government.

First Time

In Washington, the GSA listed for the first time the federal expenditures for improvements, equipment, operation and maintenance of the White House complex at Key Biscayne — $1,100,322 since the fiscal year beginning July, 1969. This figure includes official office space; the San Clemente figure does not include White House office space.

It was just a month ago that the White House said that federal funds for San Clemente were a modest $39,000.

The White House also revealed that businessman Robert Abplanalp, who helped President Nixon buy the San Clemente estate, has been getting some money back in the form of rent associated with Nixon’s complex at Key Biscayne.

No Bidding

Thomas Hannon, regional administrator of the GSA in San Francisco, conceded that many of the purchases and projects for San Clem-

Benton had never been subject to competitive bids.

The “urgency” of the situation dictated “negotiated” purchase of many improvements, according to Harmon. He said he was not able to differentiate the competitive from the negotiated purchases in the 15-page audit report of San Clemente.

Items in the San Clemente audit ranged from $130,330 for a “security and communications system” to $250 for a pole-top ladder. Also were

—See Back Page, Col. 7

—From Page 1

$17,000 for “repair and replacement of landscaping and sprinklers damaged in construction work” and $32,000 for roof tiles on the estate’s three gazebos.

A flagpole was installed at $195 and it was painted for $476.

The majority of the items, including $600 for removal of weeds in 1970, added to be costs normally borne by a home owner.

The government, however, said the improvements at Key Biscayne were all related to “security.”

Few of the expenditures at San Clemente, apart from those dealing directly with security and $464 for furnishing the presidential of-

The audit also provided a peek into the White House. The White House itself spent $1,100,322 on maintenance and repairs. Nixon’s 35.9-acre estate was just a month ago.

The White House said that the Key Biscayne figures were $1,100,322 for its $2,000,000 — for renting two houses in the complex for the Secret Service and White House communications staff.

The White House said that the houses are owned by Abplanalp, the other is held in the name of Edwin H. Underwood, trustee for the Indiana National Bank, Indianapolis.

Abplanalp, of Boca Raton, N.Y., businessman, who made a fortune perfecting the valve that operates accord- ingly, is worth $25,000,000 in 1969 to help him buy the original 23.9-acre land property for $4.5 million.

In 1970 Abplanalp bought 230 acres of acres back from Nixon for $1.25 million. The whole loan and leaving Nixon with 5.9 acres, the house, the enjoyment of the other 23 acres, and an in-

The Key Biscayne audit included $130,000 in 1970 for gold and silver for the Secret Service patrol.

Two years later there appeared another item of $2,250 for Secret Service carts at Key Biscayne.

Inclusion of the Key Biscayne figures was $130,000 for a month — for renting two houses in the complex for the Secret Service and White House communications staff.

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