

How Rich Is Ike?



As Dwight D. Eisenhower begins his well-deserved retirement, he has no money worries; here's a look at how much he's worth

By JERRY KLEIN



THOMAS JEFFERSON, James Madison, James Monroe, Ulysses S. Grant—all these Presidents were virtually poverty-stricken upon leaving office. But Dwight D. Eisenhower has left the White House as not only the oldest President of the United States—but one of the very richest.

As a young boy, he worked at odd jobs to increase his family's inadequate income: his father was a railroad worker. Even as an adult, his Army pay only enabled him and Mamie to "get by."

But today there seems small doubt that Eisenhower is a millionaire, for in money matters the ex-President has been described as "prudent." And a prudent man who has earned the money Eisenhower has in the past dozen years would easily be worth a million dollars today.

True, when Dwight and Mamie were married in 1916, they had to make ends meet on his lieutenant's pay of less than \$100 a month. It may also be true that when the General resigned as Chief of Staff following World War II he had no more than about \$25,000—some of which came to Mamie from her father, a successful meat packer.

But in 1948 Ike wrote his 200,000-word war memoir, "Crusade in Europe," which was the best-selling nonfiction book of the year and reportedly earned him over \$635,000. After taxes, there was still about \$475,000 in the till.

When Eisenhower was elected President, he didn't want to be in the position where his official decisions could knowingly influence his own financial holdings, so he is said to have turned over his finances to a New York investment house.

This firm was instructed to handle his investments without telling him how or where his money was invested.

According to some observers, the considerable fortune Eisenhower started with a decade ago should now be "at least doubled." Besides—and it's a big "besides"—the General has since earned a

Presidential salary totaling a cool \$800,000 more. And, in addition, he has enjoyed expense accounts amounting perhaps to another \$650,000! So all in all it is not difficult to see where the Eisenhower exchequer may be up over the million-dollar mark.

And this doesn't count the many thousands of dollars worth of machinery, livestock, trees, furniture, antiques, and other gifts given to the President and his wife for their retirement home in Gettysburg, Pa. In addition, Mrs. Eisenhower recently became heir to more than \$100,000 from the estate of her late mother.

So much for their capital assets. How about their income now that the Eisenhowers are out of public life? Here, too, they have enough cash coming in to put them in a high tax bracket.

First of all, as an ex-President, Eisenhower receives a lifetime pension of \$25,000 a year. (A President's widow is entitled to a \$10,000 annual pension.) In addition, the Government allows him up to \$50,000 a year in salaries for aides, free office space and postage. Congress already has set aside \$37,500 to meet this bill for the first six months of 1961.

But that's not all. A move is afoot in Congress to restore Eisenhower's rank as a five-star general, which he resigned to run for President. If reinstated, Eisenhower will be eligible for a \$20,543 annual pension, office space in the Pentagon or elsewhere, use of two military aides, and free hospital and medical care.

Summing up, with the grand total of probably more than a million dollars in reserve and pension possibilities of some \$900 a week, Dwight D. Eisenhower leaves the White House as one of the wealthiest Chief Executives since George Washington.

Except for Washington himself, few Presidents have come anywhere near being as well off as this plain country boy who has lived to find fame and to enjoy fortune.

COVER:

If the array on the dashboard is any indication, artist Homer Hill's driver plans a long trip. For a report on U.S. roads, see "Are Our Superhighways Obsolete?" p. 6.

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