Nixon, in Pre-Dawn Tour, Talks to War Protesters

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr. Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 9-President Nixon left the White House shortly before dawn this morning, droye to the Lincoln Memorial and spent an hour chatting with young people who had come to pro-

test his war policies.

The extraordinary visit, which caught his staff unawares and left the Secret Service "petrified," was Mr. Nixon's first direct exchange with students massed here for a weekend of

As he stood on the steps of the Memorial and talked, the crowd around him grew from eight to 30 to 50, and near the end of what appears to have been more monologue than dialogue, he asked the students "to try to understand what we are doing,"

Breakfast at Hotel

Afterwards he drove to the Capitol, ate breakfast at the Mayflower Hotel—his first visit to a restaurant here since his inauguration-then returned to the White House. Then he spent the rest of the day with his family, protected from the demonstrators on the Ellipse but within earshot of their cheers, chants and taunts.

His excursion was brief, lasting three and one-half hours. But it provided a revealing glimpse of a man who has been under exceptional strain for the last few weeks, who has been forced to improvise rapidly to deal with the consequences of

Continued on Page 24, Column 7

Nixon Makes a Pre-Dawn Tour And Meets Group of Protesters

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

pected tragedy at Kent State, til years later that I realized and who is said to have enjoyed Neville Chamberlain was a few restful nights since he decided, on the evening of April ill was right. 27, to send American troops into Cambodia.

Mr. Nixon was accompanied got over." to the Lincoln Memorial only by his longtime valet, Manolo Sanchez, and several Secret "They were Servicemen. The President gave all over the county and I told an account of what happened them, sure, you came here to to Garnett D. Horner, White demonstrate and shout your House correspondent for The slogans on the Illipse. That is Washington Star, who arrived all right. Just kep it peaceful. at the White House shortly aft- Remember, I felt just as deeply er Mr. Nixon returned from his as you do about this." trip at 7:30 A.M.

As Mr. Nixon described the own account, le ranged over events, he remained awake unmany subjects including the til 2:30 this morning, accepting race problem, the poverty of calls from old friends here and the Indians, the environment. on the West Coast who tele-phoned him with comments visited in his years as Repreabout his appearance last night, sentative, Senator and Vice He slept fitfully for an hour, President. rose, and called Mr. Sanchez Mr. Nix and asked him whether he had in the account he gave Mr. ever seen the Lincoln Memorial Horner, but apparently he could at night. Mr. Sanchez never not resist his penchant to talk had, so the President said, about sports "Let's go." Joan Pelle

placed a telephone call to Helen who said sie was among the Thomas, a White House report- 50 or so who eventually gather for United Press Interna- ered to hea the President, told tional. Miss Thomas was asleep newsmen liter: at her apartment at the time. Only five hours earlier, the versity that's completely up-President had ended his news right, on trike, and when we... conference with a moment of told him where we were from silence for the late Merriman he talked about the football Smith, White House corresponteam, and when someone said dent for U.P.I.

The President and Miss talked about surfing." Thomas had what was described as a rambling conversation ed, the Fresident drove to the about Mr. Smith and other mat-Capitol, where the President ters, and then Mr. Nixon summoned Mr. Sanchez.

Nixon related to Mr. Horner, then went to breakfast at "I said I know you think we are a bunch of so and sos—flower, wherethe President, in I used a stronger word to them. Mr. Ziegler words, "had I know how you feel—you corned beef hish with an egg on it."

"I told them that I know it is awfully hard to keep this that it was its first corned in perspective I told them that leef hash with peached egg in

in perspective. I told them that beef hash with poached egg in in 1939 I thought Neville Cham-five years:

berlain was the greatest man living and Winston Churchill his own policies and the unex-was a madman. It was not ungood man, but Winston Church.

"I doubt," he adled, "if that

Continuing his account, the

"They were fire kids from

Judging by he President's

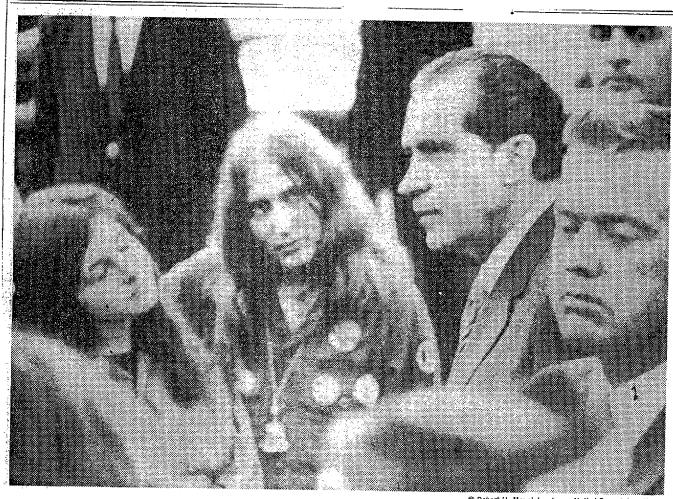
Mr. Nixon dd not mention it

Joan Pelleier, a 20-year-old Before leaving, Mr. Nixon coed from Syracuse University

> "Here we come from a uni-. he was from California, he

When the conversation endshowed Mr. Sanchez the House chamber. by then, three of his The two men toured the Memorial, and when they emerged at about 5 A.M. they met about secretary; residential assisters that the steps.

They become toured the Memorial, and when they emerged at about 5 A.M. they met about secretary; residential assistant, H. R. Haldeman, and They began talking about the a special issistant, Dwight war. "On the war thing," Mr. Chapman—aid the five men Nixon related to Mr. Horner, then went to breakfast at ...



SURPRISE VISITOR: President Nixon chatting with Barbara Hirsch, left, of Cleveland and Lauree Moss of Detroit at 5 A.M. at the Lincoln Memorial, where several demonstrators gathe d. Secret Service agents are at the right.