

Nixon Returns Here To Work on Speech

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United Press International

President Nixon, ending an 18-day stay in Southern California, returned to a chilly capital aboard a small military jet transport early yesterday to prepare for the return of Congress and his State of the Union address.

The President's only known plans for his first day back at the White House were to watch the Super Bowl football game on television.

It was just above 20 degrees and about 3 a.m. EDT when an Air Force Lockheed Jetstar touched down at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington with the presidential party after an unannounced five-hour flight from Palm Springs airport in California.

The press corps, which normally accompanies the President, was not told of the flight until a few minutes after take-off of the Jetstar, which accommodates 10 to 13 passengers.

The Jetstar was used for security reasons, according to White House aides. Reporters previously were told the President would travel by commercial jet, as he did when he went to San Clemente Dec. 26, to conserve jet fuel.

Aides said the President flew back to Washington on a government plane because of the "element of surprise" had been removed and commercial travel now was considered a security risk.