

President Exceeds Gas Limit

111374
By Lou Cannon

Washington Post Staff Writer
SAN CLEMENTE, Calif.,

Jan. 12 — President Nixon and his entourage have used at least 170 gallons of gasoline for pleasure driving during the President's 18-day stay in Southern California.

A compilation based on the President's announced travel and on a conservative estimate of his drive on unannounced trips with C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo shows that Mr. Nixon himself has driven about 500 miles in his late-model Lincoln limousine. According to figures of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lincoln limousines get 7.9 miles to the gallon.

This would mean that the presidential car has consumed 62 gallons in his drives around Southern California.

Mr. Nixon has been accompanied on all of his drives by Secret Service agents in a late-model station wagon, which also gets about eight miles to the gallon. At least three other presidential cars made the 125-mile trip from the President's oceanside San Clemente estate to Palm Desert, where Mr. Nixon has been the guest since Wednesday of publishing magnate Walter Annenberg, the U. S. ambassador to Great Britain.

The fuel-use estimate is based upon eight miles a gallon for the 500 miles driven both by the President and the Secret Service station wagon and 11 miles to the gallon for the three other cars that also accompany Mr. Nixon from the airport to San Clemente.

Mr. Nixon's announced

drives, in addition to the Palm Desert trip, have included a 106-mile round trip to La Jolla to attend the wedding of his physician, Dr. Walter Tkach, and shorter drives last Sunday to the San Clemente Presbyterian Church and to a Mexican restaurant for dinner.

However, White House officials confirmed privately that Mr. Nixon had taken six unannounced drives with Rebozo. One was a very short drive and the others were drives of two to three hours apiece.

According to one White House official, one of the unannounced drives proceeded from the presidential compound to the White House press message center 13 miles away in Laguna Beach without being noticed by any reporters.

On these private drives Rebozo usually takes the wheel with the President alongside in the front seat.

Stormy weather has plagued the President during much of his Southern California stay. But the weather has turned warm since Mr. Nixon went to Palm Desert, and he has played golf several times on Annenberg's private course.

Many of the staff people accompanying the President have returned to Washington, including his private secretary Rose Mary Woods.

There have been no formal White House briefings since Wednesday. A brief announcement from the White House press office today said that the President reviewed reports from Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and talked by phone with White House chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. and press secretary Ronald L. Zielger.

"The President continues to enjoy the pleasant weather and restful atmosphere at Palm Desert," the announcement said.