

Nixon Faces TV Test On Politics, Bombing

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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President Nixon returned to Washington from Key Biscayne, Fla., last night for the beginning of a campaign year that will find him engaged in foreign policy initiatives that could be decisive for him in November.

New light on just how he will conduct himself as a candidate and as a President this year is expected when he submits to questions at 9:30 p.m. Sunday from CBS White House correspondent Dan Rather.

A year ago, the President promised that he would wear the presidential, not the political, hat in 1971 and that he would not use the presidential press conference to answer political questions. The year is

up and he is almost certain to be asked about his candidacy during the radio-TV interview Sunday.

The President in the interview also will have his first opportunity to explain why he ordered the heavy bombing attack on North Vietnam last week and how he assesses the results, politically and militarily.

Rather will have an opportunity to ask the President a host of questions that the public has not been able to obtain answers to for some time.

There has been no opportunity, for example, to question the President about any of the meetings he held in December with allied leaders in preparation for his visits to Peking in February and Moscow in May. In the Azores he did an-

nounce that he had agreed in the meeting with French President Georges Pompidou to devalue the dollar. But the communiques issued after the meetings with Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, British Prime Minister Edward Heath and West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, were vague.

On Thursday and Friday in San Clemente, Calif., the President will meet with Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato. It could be one of the most delicate in the series, because of the blow to Japanese sensibilities involved in the President's China overtures and the continuing battle over trade policy.

The final meeting in the series will be held in Washington, at a date yet to be fixed, with Italian Premier Emilio Colombo or his successor.

Mr. Nixon at least begins the new year with what his doctors describe as "excellent" health. While they said that he is overworked and in need of more relaxation, he shows no sign of slowing down or heeding their advice to get more exercise and relaxation.

Although the weather during his five-day Florida visit was excellent, he had little opportunity to enjoy it. After the two-day meeting with the West German chancellor, the President worked on preparations for his meeting with Sato, on the budget and on the legislative programs he will submit to Congress in the next few weeks, aides reported.

He found time for a drive on Biscayne Island and two short boating trips with his friend and neighbor C. G. Bebe Rebozo. Otherwise he worked in his residence and conferred by telephone with key aides.

Mr. Nixon, accompanied by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, left Homestead Air Force Base at 4:13 p.m. for the flight back to Washington.

Hoover, who celebrates his

77th birthday today, was in Florida for a mid-winter vacation.

Also aboard the President's jet were Secretary of State and Mrs. William P. Rogers.

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Mr. Nixon's national security adviser, who had been out of sight all week, left earlier in the day and flew to New York to be with his family.

The White House announced earlier in the week that Kissinger was ill with the flu. The last time a Kissinger illness was reported, the presidential adviser was on a secret trip to China.

The President is expected to deliver his State of the Union message to Congress Jan. 20 and his budget and economic messages shortly thereafter. With his Peking trip scheduled to begin Feb. 21, he will have little time to consider the presidential primaries until after his return from