

Post 9/18/73

Nixon Jet Gets Interior Remodeling

The interior of President Nixon's Air Force jet is undergoing a \$285,000 remodeling, mostly along lines suggested by Mrs. Nixon, the White House said yesterday.

A White House spokesman said the main change is relocation of the guest lounge, which now will be vacated next to the President's suite where the staff lounge was before.

The spokesman said the work is being done while the Boeing 707, The Spirit of '76, undergoes its annual maintenance overhaul at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York. It has been in service since August, 1972—replacement for the old Air Force 1 used by Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. It was originally outfitted and decorated at a cost of \$1.5 million.

In the old layout, the staff quarters were largest and connected directly with the President's suite. Mrs. Nixon and other members of the family were described as dissatisfied with the arrangement from the outset, feeling that guests should have that choice location.

They preferred the arrangement in the old Air Force 1, which has been used frequently as a replacement on flight to San Clemente, Calif., and Key Biscayne, Fla. The new setup in the Spirit of '76 will be much the same.