

A Standing Room Only

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W Post

Spokesman for five government agencies said yesterday that the free tickets for Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's White House arrival this morning

were moving "normally."

A department of Agriculture spokesman said, however, that only half that agency's ticket allotment had been taken by its em-

ployees.

"We have not been having much response lately," he said, without elaborating.

Assistant Chief of Protocol William Codus conceded

Event With Tickets to Spare

that attendance at White House arrival ceremonies had fallen from 5,000 or 6,000 in the early years of the Nixon administration to 3,000 or 4,000 more recently.

Codus, whose office is in charge of arrival ceremonies, said he considers it normal for attendance to decline the longer an administration is in office.

Other factors influencing attendance, observers say, range from the prominence of the state visitor to the weather.

—Charlotte Hays
