

Ford Suggests Nixon-Ervin Compromise

New 'Hard Line' Denied by Haig

By Lou Cannon

Washington Post Staff Writer

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Jan. 6—The White House chief of staff said today that President Nixon's refusal to supply the Senate Watergate Committee with a broad array of tapes and documents does not signify a new "hard-line approach" by the administration.

"The President isn't sitting out there telling people to go to hell," said Alexander M. Haig Jr. "We're cooperating fully with the Watergate prosecutor and I don't know how anyone makes a hard-line approach out of that."

Mr. Nixon last Friday sent Watergate committee Chairman Sam J. Ervin Jr. a letter rejecting the committee's subpoenas for nearly 500 Watergate-related documents and other materials, some of which have already been turned over to the Watergate prosecutor. One committee member, Sen. Herman Talmadge (D-Ga.) said Saturday that the refusal indicated "he has something to hide."

The tone of the letter was unyielding, with Mr. Nixon declaring that cooperation with the committee's request "would unquestionably destroy any vestige of confidentiality of presidential communications."

Mr. Nixon emerged today from 10 days of seclusion at his Pacific estate to attend services with his family and C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo at the nearby San Clemente Presbyterian Church.

The President had not attended worship services outside the White House since he went to the Key Biscayne Presbyterian Church last Easter and heard the Rev. John Huffman deliver a sermon that was widely regarded as critical of Mr. Nixon over Watergate.

There was no reference to Watergate today. The Rev. Joseph S. Stephens acknowledged the First Family's presence in the front-row pews by saying "God bless you. We pray for you. Be assured of that."

As the President, dressed in a dark-blue suit with an American flag in his lapel, left the church in a light rain he told the minister that "we as Pres-

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byterians will have a good day tomorrow, that we still believe in predestination (and) that we'll probably have blue and sunny skies."

The President returned to his villa immediately after the service and spent the afternoon relaxing and working in his study.

Mr. Nixon is expected to spend a considerable portion of this week working on his budget proposals and his State of the Union message, which he is expected to deliver to Congress soon after it reconvenes on Jan. 21.

Roy L. Ash, director of the Office of Management and Budget, flew to San Clemente late Friday and is expected to confer with Mr. Nixon early this week.

It was learned here that a proposal for a "negative income tax," apparently ruled out earlier by White House aides, may be included in the President's proposals.

The negative income tax, a form of guaranteed annual income first advocated by conservative economist Milton Friedman, has been suggested within the administration by departing counselor Melvin R. Laird.

"The President is looking at a wide range of proposals," said one White House aide. "Nothing has been ruled out at this point."

Mr. Nixon has now spent 12 days in California, and he apparently will remain here for several more days. Much of his stay has been accompanied by the worst storms in South-

ern California in a quarter century.

The President chatted about the weather with the Rev. Stephens after the church service today but he didn't ask the minister to pray for sunshine.

"He said he thought we needed some rain," Stephens said.

Stephens said that his sermon, on the theme of "The God That Guides," was written before he was informed Saturday that the President would be attending the service, and that he changed nothing in it because of Mr. Nixon's attendance.



Associated Press

Vice President and Mrs. Ford arrive for his appearance on "Meet the Press."