

KEOGH QUILTS POST AS A NIXON WRITER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (Reuters) — James Keogh resigned today as President Nixon's chief speech writer, saying he had decided to return to journalism.

Mr. Keogh, 54 years old, head of the speech-writing team since Mr. Nixon took office, told him, "It has been one of the great experiences of my life to have served on your staff since you were nominated for the Presidency in August, 1968."

The White House announced that Ray Price, 40, special assistant to the President and another speech writer, would take over as head of the research and writing staff. Mr. Price has a reputation of being slightly more liberal than Mr. Keogh.

Mr. Keogh left the White House on amicable terms with the President, who said in a "Dear Jim" letter that he accepted his resignation with the deepest regrets. The resignation is effective Dec. 31.

Mr. Keogh is a former executive of Time Magazine. He has had a number of job offers but so far has not made up his mind what he will do.