

NO 5-1

Nixon May Omit Talk to Congress

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WASHINGTON (AP) — For the second time, President Nixon may not deliver his State of the Union message to Congress in person.

Congressional sources said Thursday the President is expected instead to present broad outlines of his programs in his Jan. 20 inaugural address and follow up with a written message to Congress.

Gerald L. Warren, deputy White House press secretary, said no fiscal plans have been made for the annual State of the Union message.

Normally, when a president plans to address Congress in person at the outset of a session, he so informs a special joint committee shortly after it advises him each session that Congress is ready for business.

That committee reported back to the House Wednesday that Nixon said "from time to time he will send messages to this body."

Leaders of Congress have not been asked to set a date for a personal address by the President. Neither have security forces been alerted to

prepare for such an occasion.

In 1970, 1971 and 1972, President Nixon personally delivered his State of the Union message. In 1969, his first year in office, he sent his message up and it was read to Congress. President Johnson, leaving office that year, delivered his final State of the Union address in person.

President Eisenhower didn't make a personal appearance when he left office in January 1961. That was the year President Kennedy made his first personal address to Congress.

Eisenhower also sent his message by courier in 1956 while he was in Key West.

In the early years of Congress, presidents addressed joint sessions each year. Thomas Jefferson discontinued that practice in 1801 and transmitted his messages in writing.

Jefferson's precedent was followed until 1913 when Woodrow Wilson resumed the custom of addressing Congress in person. The practice has been followed generally by most presidents since then, with the exception of Herbert Hoover.