

Nixon's Secret Rides With Rebozo

SAN CLEMENTE — (NNS) — Almost every afternoon a tan Lincoln Continental slips quietly out of the guarded gates of the Western White House, turns left onto Avenue Del Presidente and blends into the heavy Southern California traffic.

At the wheel in open sport shirt and blazer is Charles "Bebe" Rebozo. Beside him is President Nixon. Following at a discreet distance is a dark sedan filled with grim-faced Secret Service agents.

The daily trips are planned and executed with unusual secrecy. The small press "pool" which is supposed to accompany the President

when he leaves the White House, often is not notified, and learns that the President and Rebozo are on the road after it is too late to catch up.

Suspect Rebozo

Reporters have long suspected that it is the publically-shy Rebozo, rather than the President or his security guards, who insists on ditching the press.

Few motorists traveling the busy highways and freeways notice the President. Occasionally Rebozo will zip past a slower car, and Nixon will smile and wave, causing the other motorist perhaps to think to himself, "Boy, that

fellow looks a lot like Richard Nixon."

On these outings — which are Nixon's favorite and most consistent form of California relaxation — the two companions roam all over Orange, San Diego and Los Angeles Counties.

Nixon points out the places he used to visit as a boy, when he lived at nearby Yorba Linda.

The President seems to get special pleasure in retracing those steps, although he has expressed disappointment over the drastic changes time has brought.

The orange and lemon groves have given way to

freeways, shopping centers and housing developments, and the beaches have become cluttered and overcrowded.

The tours may last for two or more hours, with occasional stops at special points of interest or for ice cream.

Crowds Attracted

The ice cream stops never fail to attract large crowds and create a stir among the store personnel. Nixon usually offers a discourse on the merits of various flavors before choosing one. Rebozo usually pays the bill.

Routinely, Nixon works in his office in the morning, then joins Rebozo for a relax-

ing afternoon and evening.

Nixon and Rebozo have been testing a number of local beaches during their current visit. Normally, Nixon prefers his own 350-yard beach, rated as one of the best in Southern California, but an oil spill last week has temporarily left black patches on the sand.

During one recent afternoon excursion, Nixon and Rebozo swam at two different beaches—Irvine Cove, a private residential beach near Newport, and Red Beach, at Camp Pendleton, where the Marines maintain a portable dressing room for the President.