

A Chauffeured Car For Nixon's Dog



— Jack Anderson

AT THE same time that President Nixon is appealing to motorists to hold down their driving because of the gasoline shortage, a chauffeur-driven limousine regularly hauls his handsome Irish setter, King Timahoe, between Camp David and the White House.

The presidential pooch, perched in solitary splendor on the back seat of a blue Chrysler limousine, is accorded the same protocol as a five-star general or visiting foreign dignitary.

Frequently, the dog rides in similar regal style on the last leg of the trip to the Western White House in San Clemente, Calif., while the President helicopters in from El Toro Marine Base.

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AS WE reported two years ago, King Timahoe travels cross country in a luxurious Air Force jet. On at least one occasion, a special plane was wheeled out for the trip.

The crew was notified only that an "important personage" would be brought on board. Some low-ranking White House aides, waiting for the first available transportation, went along. But the "important personage" turned out to be King Timahoe.

We were told at first that the dog is chauffeured around because he is afraid of helicopters. But a White House spokesman denied this, saying King Timahoe of-

ten bounds straight for the presidential helicopter to greet his master.

The dog is provided limousine service, acknowledged the spokesman, when the helicopter is too crowded.

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FOOTNOTE: There's little evidence that the White House is paying any attention to President Nixon's appeal to save gas. The first family is chauffeured around in Cadillacs, Continentals and Chryslers. Nor do they seem inclined to switch to smaller models, which save on gas. Explained a Secret Service spokesman: "Large engines are necessary to support the security equipment on the cars."

Twenty senior White House aides, whose names are on the "A" list, are individually chauffeured to and from work each day. No effort has been made to form commuter pools, as the President has urged, for aides living in the same neighborhoods.

Another 100 White House staff members, whose names are on the "B" list, have access during the day to some 25 cars. These used to be kept sitting in the driveway with their engines running and their air conditioners on so they'd be cool when some bigwig wanted to be driven somewhere. In recognition of the gas shortage, the engines are now turned off between trips.