

Nixon Forgoes Church Rites

Last White House Services Were April 15

Associated Press

President Nixon has not attended church services publicly or held any worship services in the White House for nearly five months, but a presidential spokesman said yesterday that the President intends to continue the White House services.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren, responding to questions about presidential churchgoing, said that he would not get into a discussions of "a man going to church."

President Nixon inaugurated worship services in the White House when he came to office. There have been no White House services since April 15, when the Rev. Edward Hill, a Baptist minister from Los Angeles, presided.

The last time Mr. Nixon attended a public worship service was Easter April 22, in Key Biscayne, Fla., when the Rev. John A. Huffman Jr., of Key Biscayne Presbyterian church, delivered a

moralizing sermon that some observers linked to the Watergate scandals.

Warren was asked if the President had stopped the White House services and if he has stopped going to church.

Warren responded that, as with presidential news con-

ferences, when presidential churchgoings are scheduled, "we will announce them."

He added firmly, however, that Mr. Nixon "has not stopped worship services in the White House." He said the President instituted the services and "he believes in them."

(Nixon will hold first worship services in six months on 7 Oct 73. SFChronicle 26 Sep 73, filed W/gate.)