

Nixon Orders The Lights Out

Examiner News Services

SAN CLEMENTE — First it was Lyndon Johnson who ordered electricity in the White House conserved by turning out the lights at night, a chore he often performed personally.

Now, taking his own steps to meet the energy crisis, President Nixon is ordering aides to shut off unnecessary lights, the air conditioning at night and the motors of waiting cars of the presidential fleet.

It is not known how much money was saved by Johnson's light bulb economics, but Nixon's move may produce some noisy grumbling. He has ordered air conditioning turned down in federal agencies during the sweltering, humid Washington summer and suggested government workers wear casual clothing and work in shirt sleeves.

"We always work in our shirt sleeves in the White House," insisted Press Secretary Ronald Ziegler. He added that White House staffers have been taking "plenty of heat lately," referring to the Watergate affair.

Under the Nixon orders, lights at the White House, and his estates at Key Biscayne, Fla. and San Clemente will be cut off in corridors and offices when they are not in use.

While Johnson might have gone along with part of the Nixon directive, having a Texan's fondness for climate control, he would never have tampered with the air conditioning.