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President and Mrs. Nixon leaving the San Clemente (Calif.) Presbyterian Church after service yesterday.

President Attends Church In Rare Coast Appearance

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LAGUNA BEACH, Calif., Jan. 6 — President Nixon attended church services today in what was only his second announced departure from the San Clemente compound since his arrival Dec. 26.

Accompanied by his wife and their older daughter, Tricia, Mr. Nixon appeared at the San Clemente Presbyterian Church. The Nixon's chatted briefly afterward with the minister, the Rev. Joseph Stephens, and his assistant, the Rev. Frederic Appleton.

The President's church attendance called attention to the fact that his only other announced activity outside the compound during his post-Christmas vacation was on Dec. 28, when he attended the wedding of the White House physician, Maj. Gen. Walter R. Tkach of the Air Force, at La Jolla.

The outing was marred by hostile banners and by chanting and booing that was audible inside the chapel.

Mr. Nixon is also believed to have gone driving several times, but the White House has refused to confirm these trips.

However, except for Secretary of State Kissinger, who spent three days here, no member of the Cabinet has been in touch with Mr. Nixon since before Christmas, according to the White House account of his schedule provided for reporters.

After repeated promises of better access to the President and some initial improvement in the situation, the Cabinet appears to have been cut off once again. Some members, according to informed sources, have become so disillusioned that they are preparing to ask Vice

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President Ford to intervene for them.

Aside from the Cabinet, the President has seen relatively few associates or visitors. On a typical day, he sees or talks by telephone with Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the White House chief of staff; Ronald L. Ziegler, the press secretary, and sometimes Rose Mary Woods, his personal secretary.

Generally, the President has remained at his oceanside villa, Casa Pacifica, or at his nearby office. His aides expect little change in the next week.

Even Mr. Nixon's limited social life is confined largely to a tiny circle of close friends. For example, he persuaded C. G. Rebozo, the Miami banker, to fly to California last week. He is staying at the San Clemente Inn.

Last night, Mr. Rebozo was one of the guests at a small dinner at Casa Pacifica. The others were Paul Keys, the television producer, and his wife; John Wayne, the actor; and Patricia Reilly Hitt, a former Assistant Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Operator Candor, the effort to rebuild confidence in the President through a show of openness both in making information available and in Presidential meetings with a broad cross-section of political leaders, has been muted.

The White House continues to insist that statements on the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation case and the political contributions of milk producers will be forthcoming. But they were due before the holiday recess of Congress, and they may be delayed until some time in February.

Instead, the President has begun another of his counterattacking phases, with his refusal to make public transcripts of White House tape recordings and his rejection of the Senate Watergate committee's subpoenas. At the same time, his aides have begun privately to take an extremely hard line, particularly against Samuel Dash, the committee counsel.

During the first week of his sojourn at San Clemente, Mr. Nixon worked principally on legislation and with Mr. Kissinger on the Middle East situation. Next week the focus will be the budget and the State of the Union Message.

Roy L. Ash, director of the Office of Management and Budget, is here for final fiscal discussions.

According to some aides, the President plans to use the State of the Union Message as an attempt to focus the nation's attention on domestic questions other than on Watergate, and he may chastise the Congress for allegedly ignoring pressing domestic questions while con-

centrating on watergate.

The present plan is for Mr. Nixon to deliver the message in person before a joint session of Congress, with live television coverage, perhaps on Jan. 23. Raymond K. Price Jr., Mr. Nixon's leading speech writer, is at San Clemente to work on the message.

But with Mr. Nixon's popularity in the latest Gallup Poll, released yesterday, standing at only 29 per cent, a minority of his advisers—and a majority of Republican professionals—fear that he will be unsuccessful in attempting to divert the nation's attention from the issue of the scandal.