

Nixon Still Plans No Gas Rationing

Washington

President Nixon has no plans "at this time" to order gasoline rationing or to seek an additional tax on retail gas sales to meet the energy shortage, the White House said yesterday.

But press secretary Ronald Ziegler, in stating Mr. Nixon's current position, left the clear impression that the President will reassess the situation frequently to see if rationing or a gas tax is warranted, and he also will be making less drastic moves in the meantime.

Some action along those lines could come today. Mr. Nixon is scheduled to hold his first formal meeting with the cabinet-level emergency action group which has been advising him on how to deal with the energy shortage and which is said to be giv-

ing strong consideration to a proposal for rationing in the face of serious problems threatened for early next year.

The meeting was announced after several reports that the fuel supply situation might be forcing Mr. Nixon toward approval of a gas rationing program.

Zeigler, questioned at length about the prospect for such developments, said he could rule them out for the time being.

"As the President has been considering the entire energy matter, he still holds the view . . . that gas rationing is something which, although we have to have contingency plans for, is something that we really don't contemplate at this time," Zeigler said.

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