



AP Wirephoto

CHRISTMAS TREE ON WHITE HOUSE LAWN
'Spirit is not measured by the number of lights'

Nixon Turns On A Dimmer Tree

Washington

President Nixon lit the powered-down national Christmas tree yesterday and said the spirit of Christmas "is not measured by the number of lights on a tree . . . the spirit of Christmas is measured by the love that each of us has in his heart."

Before he pushed the button that illuminated a single star at the top of the 40-foot Colorado blue spruce, the President called attention to the energy crisis that dimmed the usual bright display.

"This year, while we have a problem . . . I think that what we can all be thankful for is that it is a problem of peace and not a problem of war," Mr. Nixon said. "That is what Americans can be thankful for."

"This year we will drive a little slower, this year the thermostats will be a little lower," the President said. "This year every American perhaps will sacrifice a little, but no one will suffer."

The tree is permanently planted on the ellipse between the White House and the Washington Monument.

In years past, trees were brought in for the ceremony in mid-December and taken down after New Year's Day.

In years past, 74,500 watts of electricity were required to light the gaint tree, White House deputy press secretary Gerald Warren said. This year, he said, it will require 9640 watts — mostly for the eight spotlights that illuminate the decorations on the spruce.

Associated Press