

Western White House

Nixon's 'Open

San Clemente

During the last year and a half more than 1000 people have participated in 30 meetings, seminars and symposiums at the Western White House when President Nixon was not in residence.

The gatherings were the result of an "open door" policy which the President instituted to encourage greater use of the governmental facilities.

For the first year, all those who participated in meetings at the Western White House were either federal employees or persons serving on federal commissions or committees.

Now the President, who has been pleased with the broad use made of the facilities, has decided to open the western White House to non-governmental groups, such as colleges and nonpartisan civic groups.

SPOTLIGHT

Again, his idea is to make a government facility that is seldom used by the Presidential staff available to the general public.

As a by-product, it would also help the President in his effort to focus the spotlight more on the West Coast and away from the so-called Eastern establishment, where the Nation's business has traditionally been carried on.

When Mr. Nixon first decided to open the western White House in February, 1970, he wrote letters to individual Western governors telling them of the availability of the facility and later he sent a memorandum to departments and agencies of the federal government.

But it wasn't until this spring that non-federal groups started using the facilities, a White House spokesman said.

The spokesman said there have been many requests for use of the compound during the summer and fall. A schedule is being worked out,

A General In Exile

Madrid

Former General Elias Wessin y Wessin arrived in Spain yesterday after his expulsion from the Dominican Republic on charges of plotting to overthrow president Joaquin Balaguer.

"My conflict with President Balaguer was very serious," he said at Madrid airport. He declined to elaborate. Wessin y Wessin was deported after he was accused of leading a rightwing conspiracy to overthrow Balaguer.

United Press

dependent upon the President's schedule.

Although the meeting rooms and other facilities are not large, the compound is ideal for small groups and the view is magnificent.

The plush complex has several offices, a staff mess and a ladies lounge, which was added recently.

LIMIT

Space puts a limit on the size of the groups that can hold meetings at the compound. During the first year the average was about 30 persons to a meeting. One meeting in March was attended by 78 persons.

There are no overnight facilities on the grounds. Meals are either obtained off the grounds or are catered by local restaurants.

Arrangements for using the western White House facilities are handled by the military aides' office in the White House in Washington.

The public facilities are located on the Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton property overlooking the ocean at Mateo Point, just south of here.

Before the President arrived, the Coast Guard used only a small portion of the

land for a long range navigation station and the rest was a dusty, weed-grown field.

When the President bought the Spanish-style Cotton estate adjacent to the property, a crash construction program was undertaken in the summer of 1969 and the compound suddenly materialized.

The buildings, which are dark tan colored, are now in a setting of magnificent landscaping, meadow flowers and blankets of posies on the hillside outside Mr. Nixon's glassed-in office facing the ocean.

The prefabricated buildings are not fancy and are leased for \$54,000 a year. They eventually will be owned by the government.

PAD

A helicopter landing pad, where the Presidential craft set down, has been surrounded by grass. Roads have been constructed and unobtrusive guardhouses, built in the Spanish motif, have been spotted at strategic locations.

Inside, the furnishings are lavish and tasteful with indirect lighting, deep-beige carpets and simulated wood paneling throughout. Soft music plays over built-in speakers.

In the entrance to the main building a visitor is greeted by a smiling portrait of Mr. Nixon, and in the long corridor leading to the various offices, the walls are covered with photographs of the first family, taken by White House photographer Ollie Atkins.

The large color photos

Door' Policy

show the President in different moods and settings.

There is a picture of Tricia and Edward Cox taken at their engagement announcement party, the Nixons in the western White House sitting room and various shots of the President and his wife on the beach or sitting on a bench overlooking the Pacific.

To the right of the reception area in the main building is the conference room.

The room is 20 by 30 feet and in the middle is a huge conference table, 20 feet long, with 18 chairs arranged around it. On the right side of the table, the line of blue upholstered contour chairs is broken in the middle by a gold chair.

It is here that the Presi-

dent sits during staff meetings and sessions with members of his cabinet.

Around the edges of the room are 22 chairs and several blackboards, which can be used by visiting groups. The room can be changed into a classroom situation by a quick rearrangement, if required.

RESPONSIBILITY

Governmental facilities at the western White House compound are under the care of the General Services Administration and the Coast Guard is responsible for the grounds—other than those directly around the compound buildings.

Coast Guardsmen man the gates at the entrance to the compound, at the end of El Presidente Avenue. The Cali-

fornia Highway Patrol also helps, and the Secret Service has men permanently at the facility.

Among the many groups

which have used the compound so far have been the executive staff of the Internal Revenue Service, the 9th District Court of Appeals

Symposium, the Youth Advisory Committee and regional offices of the Office of Civil Defense.

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