

Nixon Visits Yule Crowds

NEW YORK — (UPI) — President Nixon strolled among thousands of friendly Christmas shoppers and visitors at Rockefeller Center yesterday and expressed delight that the country's "spirit is really very good."

He joined hands with an Israeli and an Arab student; gave some sound academic advice to a 10 year old admirer; chatted about football; pressed bills into the hands of a Salvation Army worker and expressed delight with America's direction.

Nixon, Moshe Harel, 21, an Israeli, and Ismail El Shamawany of Cairo, both students studying in New York, all joined hands in a gesture the President called symbolic.

"We all want peace in the Middle East," Nixon said. "And we all know the difference that exists there but here in New York we're all friends. That's really the Christmas message."

He met a Salvation Army worker and donated several bills. "That's for your pot," he said, grinning broadly.

His visit to the busy midtown plaza with his close

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friend C. G. "Bebe" Rebezo was unannounced but it was not long before his presence was known. Other members of the First Family were shopping in midtown stores.

Several thousand persons followed his path in the crisp, sunny weather. At one point a small boy seemed in danger of being crushed between the crowd and the security men surrounding the President.

Nixon reached out for the frightened boy, brought him near and asked: "Are you okay? You don't want to get squashed."

He soothed the youngster with small talk. "That's a pretty jacket," he said of the boy's green school coat.

The boy, Alfred Brunner, 10, of Pittsburgh, Pa., broke into a smile and told Nixon he enjoyed studying mathematics but disliked English.

Nixon replied that he recently saw a movie on the

life of Winston Churchill who also disliked English as a youngster but who later became a master of the language.

Then to the boy's mother, Mrs. Joseph Brunner, he said: "Make him do the things he doesn't like too well. Without that it's difficult to communicate."

And with a grin he said to them both.

"That's quite a lecture for a beautiful day like this, isn't it?"

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