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# Nixon Pledges Allegiance to Redskins

By DAVE ANDERSON

President Nixon pledged allegiance yesterday to the Washington Redskins in the Super Bowl game against the Miami Dolphins, his choice a year ago.

George Allen, the Redskins' coach, and his family visited the White House to receive the President's personal congratulations. The invitation was extended during Mr. Nixon's congratulatory telephone call to Allen Sunday night after the Redskins had

defeated the Dallas Cowboys, 26-3, thereby qualifying to oppose the Dolphins for the National Football League title at Los Angeles Jan. 14.

"I always root for the home team," the President told Allen. "And my home now is in Washington."

He also said, according to Allen, that "I'm a part-time resident of Florida and have a great deal of respect for the Dolphins," a reference to his Key Biscayne home. He did not phone Don Shula, the

Dolphins' coach, as he did a year ago, when the Miami team qualified.

"I guess the President has changed sides," Shula said by phone from Miami. A year ago, Shula recalled, "he told me, 'Now, you understand that I'm a Washington Redskin fan, but I'm a part-time resident of Miami and I've been following the Dolphins real close.'"

In that call the President suggested a play for the Dol-

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President Nixon with George Allen in the White House Rose Garden. Mr. Nixon is holding a football given to him by Allen in 1969.

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phins—a pass to Paul Warfield, the wide receiver, on a "down and in" pattern. The play never worked when the Dolphins lost to the Cowboys, 24-3, in the Super Bowl at New Orleans.

No mention was made yesterday of the President's having suggested any plays to Allen.

Mr. Nixon gave Allen a pin with the Presidential seal, and a letter to Billy Kilmer, the Redskins' quarterback. Both the pin and letter were for Kilmer's 13-year-old daughter, Kathy, who has cerebral palsy. She is a resident of Azusa, Calif.

Virtually all of the President's conversation with Allen was confidential. Newsmen were not permitted to ask questions.

Perhaps because of a common background, Mr. Nixon's

interest in the Redskins has been intense since Allen took over the team in 1971. The President is a graduate of Whittier College in California, where Allen coached for six years (1951-1956).

When Allen quickly created a controversy with several major trades, dealing Redskin draft choices for experienced players, the President commented:

"I am betting on the Redskins for the championship in 1971 or 1972."

During the 1971 season, the President once visited the Redskins' practice complex in Virginia. In the club office is a color photo of the President and Allen on the practice field that day, with this inscription:

"To George Allen—with respect and admiration for his leadership, and with personal wishes. Richard Nixon."

The President suggested a play to Allen before the Redskins' 24-20 loss to the San Francisco 49ers in the 1971 National Conference playoffs. His choice was a reverse, with Roy Jefferson, a wide receiver, used as a ball carrier. The play lost 13 yards.

A week ago Mr. Nixon phoned Allen after the Redskins' 16-3 victory over the Green Bay Packers in their playoff opener.

"No, he didn't mention any plays," Allen said, smiling, in answer to a question about that phone call.

Accompanying the coach to the White House yesterday were his wife, Etty; their children, George, 20; Gregg, 20; Bruce, 16, and Jennifer, 11, and Mrs. Allen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Felix Lumbrosso of Paris.

After the visit Allen returned to his suburban home to view films of the victory in the National Conference championship game and to watch the college bowl games on television.

He granted his staff of nine assistants a day off, their first since the Redskins opened training camp at Carlisle, Pa., nearly six months ago.

Preparations for the Super Bowl will begin today when the Redskins will know more about the condition of Terry Hermeling, the offensive tackle with a damaged left knee. He had to be helped off the field Sunday.