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A Nixon Reception

Washington

President and Mrs. Nixon welcomed freshmen members of Congress at a White House reception last night and Mr. Nixon recalled that as a new congressman he and his wife almost missed their first trip to the executive mansion.

In his brief welcoming speech Mr. Nixon recalled his first visit to the White

House 26 years ago when he was invited to a reception by President Truman for members of the 80th Congress.

Mr. Nixon said he and Pat didn't know whether to go because it was a black tie party and required a purchase of a long evening gown for Mrs. Nixon. The President said this posed a problem on his \$12,500 a year congressional salary. He recalled: "My wife

said 'look I'm going to buy the gown because this may be the only time we get into this place.'"

Congressional leaders, Vice President Spiro Agnew and Chief Justice Warren Burger attended the 6 p.m. reception in honor of the 13 new senators and 60 new House members, not all of whom got to the presidential party.

Henry Kissinger, who is

due to fly to Paris tomorrow to resume peace talks, was in a jovial mood and when a reporter asked if he felt optimistic or pessimistic he smilingly replied "mystic."

After shaking hands with the 135 guests in the East Room, President Nixon, his wife and daughter Julie Eisenhower took off by helicopter for Camp David, Md.

Associated Press