

Nixon Will Ride Train to Florida

Washington

In an effort to demonstrate his concern over the energy crisis, President Nixon will journey to Florida for a post-Christmas vacation on a specially-outfitted commercial train, White House officials said yesterday.

But the officials added that the presidential jet "Spirit of '76" will be flown to Florida to be ready for instant travel should Mr. Nixon need it in an emergency. The jet uses about 2000 gallons of fuel an hour.

Fuel will be saved because only one aircraft will be making the round trip to Florida. Whenever Mr. Nixon flies somewhere aboard the Spirit of '76, a backup aircraft, almost identical goes along as well. In addition a retinue of White House aides, military assistants, Secret Service personnel, communications men and others serving the President flies along in one or more smaller jetliners.

The President is expected to depart December 26 for a week-long stay at Key Biscayne. The train trip will take from 20 to 24 hours.

Officials said that the President's railroad car will be attached to the rear of a regular commercial Amtrak train. His limousine may be driven to Florida, or taken piggyback aboard a freight car, they added.

Although the President has stayed at the White House during the past two weekends in order to save fuel, Colonel Ralph Albertazzi, the President's pilot, takes the jet out for three hours each week for practice runs to make sure there are no mechanical defects.

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Washington, Dec. 13 - President Nixon has decided to travel by train to his Key Biscayne home in Florida after Christmas, according to White House sources.

The President is expected to leave on Dec. 26 from [WX] on a regularly scheduled passenger train destined for Miami. The trip takes from 20 to 24 hours.

According to White House sources, the President's Boeing 707 ... would not be flown to Florida. They said

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other procedures "could be activated" if needed to allow the President "to fulfill his role" in an emergency.

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