

SF Examiner
Nixon Leads the Nation in Prayer

KEY BISCAYNE — (AP) — President Nixon led the nation in prayer last night to mark the end of the nation's longest war.

Accompanied by his wife, Pat, Nixon went to the Key Biscayne Presbyterian Church for special services coinciding with Vietnam ceasefire.

The church's pastor borrowed the refrain of an anti-war song from the title of his sermon: "All we are

saying is, give peace a chance."

Nixon called for solemn celebration of what he termed the conclusion "of a long and trying ordeal for America."

Nixon, in blue suit with an American flag emblem in his lapel, joined the congregation in five minutes of silent prayer to coincide with the beginning of the truce.

Said the pastor: "If you

have never prayed in silence before, pray now."

But as the nation gave thanks, there also was mourning for the nearly 46,000 Americans who died.

'Stunned'

The Rev. B. Cortez Tipton, executive secretary of the Washington Area Council of Churches said some churches deliberately had not scheduled special services.

"The reason many of us are not throwing our hats in

the air is that we are just so stunned and ashamed because the war went on so long," he said.

The War Resisters League in Seattle proclaimed "an occasion of gladness and mourning" while calling for massive aid to all Vietnam.

Gov. Reuben Askew proclaimed today in Florida "a day for prayer and permanent peace in Indochina."

Gov. Dan Evans made a similar proclamation for Washington.