

Nixon's Lapse in Public Worship

Washington

President Nixon has not attended church services publicly or held any worship services in the White House for nearly five months, but a presidential spokesman said yesterday the President intends to continue the White House services.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren, responding to questions about presidential church-going, said that he would not get into a discussion of "a man going to church."

President Nixon inaugurated worship services in the White House when he came to office. But there have been no White House services since April 15, when the Rev. Edward Hill, a Baptist minister from Los Angeles, presided.

The last time Mr. Nixon attended a public worship

service was April 22, Easter, in Key Biscayne, Fla., when the Rev. John A. Huffman Jr. of Key Biscayne Presbyterian church delivered a moralizing sermon that some observers linked to the Watergate scandals.

The lapse of time in Mr. Nixon's church attendance was brought to Warren's attention and he was asked if the President had stopped the White House services and if he has stopped going to church.

Warren responded that, as with presidential news conferences, when presidential church-goings are scheduled "we will announce them."

He added firmly, however, that Mr. Nixon "has not stopped worship services in the White House." He said the President instituted these services and "he believes in them."

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Lou Cannon)

See also NYT 25 Sep 73