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**President, Leaving
Seclusion, Renews
Role as Public Man**

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 12— President Nixon has emerged from seclusion in the last few days and is once again a public President, meeting daily with a wide range of visitors, negotiating with Congress and making public appearances.

On Saturday, the President conducted a conference on energy and appeared personally in the press room to explain what had happened. This week, he has been conferring with Congressional leaders at breakfast, and yesterday he met with 95 rank-and-file members of Congress, including some Democrats, to gain their support.

He has been meeting at length with his economic advisers, and he opened a White House conference on controlling the use of drugs with an address in which he appeared relaxed and confident.

His assistants are confident that this activity is helping to restore his public image in the wake of the Watergate disclosures. At the same time, however, he has been faced with a daily barrage of publicity about his personal life, and on this his spokesmen are at-

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tempting to shield his privacy.

Today, for example, the White House found itself in the position of reluctantly confirming that Mr. Nixon has not been to church since Easter, when, in Key Biscayne, Fla., he heard a sermon by the Rev. John A. Hoffman Jr., about sin and redemption, that was widely interpreted as aimed at the then unfolding Watergate matters.

Over the last few days there have been reports, not denied by the White House, suggesting that the President had a wiretap placed on the telephone of his brother, F. Donald Nixon, and indicating that the President apparently paid no income tax for 1970, and maybe 1971, because of large deductions available to him.

In the daily press briefings this week, Gerald L. Warren, Mr. Nixon's spokesman, has repeatedly refused to clear up questions about the wiretap. He has simply referred to his explanation of last week that if the line was tapped it concerned the Secret Service's function of protecting the President and his immediate family.

The questions about his income tax have been even more persistent and the answers less responsive. Following are excerpts from the briefing yesterday:

Q. Jerry, has the President paid any Federal income tax for the years 1970 and 1971?
A. I am not going to discuss the President's income taxes from this podium.

Q. Why not? There is a published report to that effect. Would you like to deny

it? A. I am not going to discuss the President's income taxes. I think that is a personal matter and I am just not going to discuss it."

Q. Jerry, you have said that the President went to extraordinary lengths to disclose his personal finances, he is an extraordinary person who enjoys an extraordinary position with regard to criminal laws, as he is arguing in the courts. Why, on this basis, do you refuse to tell us whether he paid any income taxes? A. I am just not discussing the President's income tax.

Attendance at Church

Q. Are you not discussing it because you consider it personal business that is not the concern of the public? A. I think the President's income tax returns are and should be treated as everyone's income tax returns are treated.

Q. Everyone's? A. Everyone's.

Today, after another series of questions on the income tax, with similar responses, Les Kinsolving, an Episcopal priest who represents newspapers in Idaho and writes a column on religion, noted that there have been no Sunday morning church services in the East Room since April 15 and there has been no publicity about the President's going to church since the Easter service in Key Biscayne on April 22.

"Has he stopped going to church, or what?" he asked.

Mr. Warren replied, in response to more questions, that the President had not lost his belief "in the efficacy of prayer," that he would hold services in the East Room in the future and that he would

go to church in the future. But he said if the President had attended church since Easter the press office would have announced it. Then there was the following exchange:

Q. Is there any specific reason that the President has not chosen to go to church for the past few weeks?

A. Gentlemen, I am not going to get into matter of a man's going to church. The President and his family attend church, they have in the past often, as you know, and they will in the future. I do not think I need to get into a discussion of this. I think this is almost as personal, if not more so, than a man's income tax.