

# A Nixon Switch

## Camp David, Md.

The White House said President Nixon flew to his mountain-top retreat yesterday, but, in a change of procedure newsmen were not permitted to watch the President's helicopter take off from the White House South Lawn or land at this closely-guarded compound.

A spokesman said the President was accompanied by Mrs. Nixon, daughter Ju-

lie and son-in-law David Eisenhower on the 40-minute trip to the Maryland retreat.

Newsmen were not told that the President had left the White House until after his helicopter had already lifted off from the South Lawn. Traditionally, newsmen get word in time to watch the President walk from either his office or his residence to the helicopter.

In addition, reporters were not allowed inside

Camp David's fences to watch the helicopter land.

A White House press assistant, who usually handles such details, Michael Shrought, was asked whether there had been a change in policy and whether newsmen now were forbidden from watching presidential helicopter takeoffs and landings. "I don't want to go that far," Shrought responded without elaboration.

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