

Nixon to Work on Energy During 4 Days at Camp David

President Nixon, taking time off from wrestling with energy problems and the Watergate scandal, will spend a long Thanksgiving weekend with his family at Camp David in Maryland.

Aides said he would use some of the time to study recommendations for emergency measures to cope with the energy crisis. He is expected to announce his decision next week.

In his annual Thanksgiving Day proclamation, Mr. Nixon noted that the day was the 10th anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy and he called on all Americans to observe it as a day of prayer.

"As we give thanks for the bounty and the goodness of our land, therefore, let us also pause to reflect on President Kennedy's contributions to the life of this nation we love so dearly," the proclamation said.

A special energy emergency action group, created two weeks ago, met at the White House yesterday afternoon. The President met in the morning with budget experts and was told by Roy L. Ash,

director of the Office of Management and Budget, that the energy shortage could probably be managed without significantly affecting the economy.

Ash said the President reiterated his goal of achieving a balanced budget this fiscal year. He said, however, that legislation pending in Congress threatens that goal.

The budget director singled out congressional moves to increase Social Security benefits, saying that the administration believes recent benefit increases have outpaced the rise in the cost of living.

While offering no specific counterplan, Ash said the administration preferred that Social Security increases be implemented gradually "over the years ahead rather than having them come in big steps."

White House Denies Reports on Richardson

A presidential spokesman denied yesterday that anyone at the White House was involved in spreading a report that former Attorney General

Elliot L. Richardson had a drinking problem.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren also denied that President Nixon had accused Richardson of lying about his involvement in the firing of Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

The Washington Post, in a front-page story Saturday, quoted senators who met with Mr. Nixon and White House chief of staff Alexander Haig last week as saying Haig made a reference to Richardson's drinking.

The Post said Haig quoted Richardson as saying, "I'd had a drink and I was tired." The Post said one senator present took this as an attempt to revive Richardson's conviction in 1939 of drunken driving charges and a 1951 driving accident.

Warren said no one "in any position of authority" at the White House was involved in spreading that report.

"We would certainly be interested in finding out who is doing this and we thoroughly disassociate ourselves from it," he said.