

Nixon's Jet To Be Flown Less Often

Washington

In order to conserve fuel, President Nixon's special plane will be used less for training flights and the pilot and crew will keep in practice by flying other aircraft, the White House said yesterday.

The change was announced after the pilot, Air Force Colonel Ralph Albertazzi, was quoted as saying that he and the rest of the presidential jet crew are taking the craft up at least three hours per week for practice flights.

Deputy press secretary Gerald Warren said he was told by Albertazzi's "superiors," whom he did not identify, that "the proficiency of the aircraft can be maintained with less flying than three hours a week, and will be."

Warren said he did not know why Albertazzi told reporters the plane had to be flown so frequently. But he added: "Colonel Albertazzi has not been grounded, he has not been reprimanded, he is still the President's pilot."

Mr. Nixon told friends Thursday night that he plans to travel to Key Biscayne, Fla., December 26 for a post-Christmas vacation on a special car attached to an Amtrak commercial train.

Should Mr. Nixon go to Florida by train, Warren said Air Force I would not be flown there to be available should the President have to return to Washington in a hurry.

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