

## PLANE FOR PRESS OPPOSED BY NIXON

President, Planning Trip to  
Florida After Christmas,  
Bars Chartering Craft

By JOHN HERBERS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18— President Nixon plans a post-Christmas trip to Florida by whatever mode of transportation uses less energy but, because of the fuel shortage, he has ordered that no press plane be chartered by the White House for the trip.

This decision was disclosed today by the deputy White House press secretary, Gerald L. Warren. If continued, it could curtail or end for the duration of the energy crisis the practice by which 70 or more reporters, broadcasters and photographers closely accompany the President on trips out of Washington.

Much of the press considers a close personal watch of the President crucial at a time when there is a question whether he can survive he criticism over the Watergate scandal and related matters.

Mr. Nixon is expected to stay in Florida about a week, leaving here Dec. 26.

### Longstanding Practice

Mr. Warren said that members of the press who wanted to go would have to make their own travel and hotel arrangements, a move that, because of crowded holiday schedules, could reduce reporting of Mr. Nixon's activities. Mr. Warren denied that the President had acted out of pique or was making any attempt to limit reporting of his

Florida holiday.

For years, the White House transportation office has chartered planes and buses for the press accompanying the President and has reserved blocks of hotel rooms. This has been done to avoid confusion and inconvenience, to permit the press to be as close as possible to the President in the event of emergency, and to observe his actions.

Costs, however, are paid by the press on a pro-rata basis.

"We feel it is wrong for the White House to ask airlines to use fuel they need for regularly scheduled flights for special charters," Mr. Warren said.

Transportation has been one more nagging problem for the President recently. Last summer and fall he came under extensive criticism for his incessant movement, at taxpayer expense, to Camp David and his Florida and California homes. In recent weeks, after fuel became short, he drastically curtailed his travels and ordered his Air Force jets to reduce their speed by 50 miles an hour to save energy.

### Alternatives Considered

Last week, a White House spokesman said that to set an example in fuel saving, the President would probably go to Key Biscayne by train. But the trip would take 24 hours, there was a problem of getting aboard the necessary communications equipment, and an extra engine might be needed, requiring more fuel than would be used by plane.

Mr. Warren said today that the matter was still under review and that several alternatives were being considered. But he said that Mr. Nixon decided, apparently several days ago, that there would be no press plane. He said he could not even promise that there would be the usual small pool of reporters on the train or plane with the President.

Mr. Nixon has made no attempt to conceal his anger at the press, accusing it of "outrageous, vicious, distorted reporting" of his affairs. On several occasions in the last few months he has sought to block White House reporters from following him closely.

### Bill Allowed to Stand

In recent weeks, he has at-

tempted to restore his credibility with the public by disclosing a wide range of information and documents on his income taxes and in the Watergate case. Last night, he allowed a bill, giving the Senate Watergate committee authority to subpoena the White House Watergate tape recordings, to become law without his signature, saying, that, while he realize Congress and the public would place an interpretation upon a veto which would be entirely contrary to my reasons for vetoing it."

Press coverage of Mr. Nixon's disclosures, however, continues to displease the White House. A Baltimore Sun survey of metropolitan newspapers that have supported the President in the past showed that Mr. Nixon received more criticism for taking advantage of the income tax laws than he won praise for making his tax returns public.

The daily White House briefings, conducted by Mr. Warren for about 50 or so reporters have continued to be hostile and disjointed, reflecting a continuing rift between Mr. Nixon and the press.

### Questions at Briefing

Concern about the need for close coverage of the President at this time was underscored by the questions in the briefing today. Among those asked were the following:

Why was the President reported working in the Lincoln study of the family apartment this morning, instead of in his Oval Office, as is his habit? Why did he postpone a morning appointment with Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger? What did his daughter, Mrs. David Eisenhower, mean when she said he had trouble getting up in the morning?

Mr. Warren said that the President was up early every morning and at work by 8:30 o'clock and that nothing was to be read into the cancellation of an appointment or a decision to stay in the Lincoln room.

He sought to lay to rest suspicions about the President's motives in canceling the press plane, saying that he, too, would have to take a commercial flight to Florida.