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# Nixon Flies Commercial

## Los Angeles

President Nixon landed in California last night aboard a commercial jetliner which he had secretly boarded for a post-Christmas vacation at his San Clemente home.

The President arrived at Los Angeles International airport at 8:05 p.m. PST on a United Air Lines DC-10.

The presidential party of 25 was among 132 passengers aboard the flight.

Hordes of reporters were kept from the field where the plane landed and watched from windows inside the air terminal.

The terminal area was closed off to everyone but the press, and a United Air Lines spokesman said passengers were asked to remain aboard the plane until the presidential party got off "as a courtesy."

Deputy White House Press Secretary Gerald R. Warren said Mr. Nixon chose a commercial flight "to set an example for the American pub-

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lic" during the energy crisis. Previously Mr. Nixon, like all recent Presidents, had used Air Force jets for his trips.

The White House said Mr. Nixon's trip to Los Angeles aboard a United Air Lines jet was kept secret for security reasons. Mrs. Nixon and a party of more than 20 aides and Secret Service agents accompanied the President.

On arriving the President and his party immediately boarded limousines for the 70-mile drive to Mr. Nixon's estate at San Clemente.

A passenger who sat three seats behind him, Earl Fleming, of Tulsa, Okla., said the President, who rode in first class walked through the plane and visited with passengers in the coach section.

Another passenger, Ann Langstroth, McLean, Va., said the President shook hands with her and other

passengers. "It was a real treat, a real surprise," she said.

One male passenger said the President told him to "root for Los Angeles in the game" — an unclear reference. The Los Angeles Rams lost to the Dallas Cowboys last Sunday in the National Football League playoff.

Helen Hapgood, of Lynchburg, Va., traveling with her husband, Edward, and 18-month-old son, Edward III, said the President spoke to them, and "he wanted us to meet his family, but we were too nervous."

Tina Myers, 16, of San Diego, said Mr. Nixon was "walking all over the place, shaking hands and wishing people a happy New Year.

"When he got to me, I said, 'You look like Bob Hope.' He said, 'Yes, he's a good friend of mine.'"

The President then gave her his autograph.

Many passengers reported having personal chats with the President.

Stewardess Sally Renshaw of Santa Monica said the President brought along his dog, King Timahoe, and expressed concern during the flight for the pet, who rode in the baggage compartment.

"He was very friendly, a very charming person," said the pilot, United Air Lines Captain Robert Wayt of Santa Ana.

"He thanked me for being on board, and I thanked him for the honor of getting to fly him."

The pilot said the plane's first class section carried "all kinds of communications equipment." A Secret Service agent said the President was in "almost constant communication with White House officials."

His departure was announced by the White House as he was leaving Dulles International Airport, in suburban Virginia.

United said the plane was airborne at 6:15 p.m. EST, some minutes later.

Unlike other passengers, Mr. Nixon who drove directly to planeside, was seated at 5:19 p.m. EST, a United official said. Regular passengers left the Dulles terminal aboard the customary mobile lounge at about 5:40 p.m. EST, and entered the DC-10 jetliner ten minutes later.

The President's party occupied 12 first class and 13 coach seats, according to United. The White House

said Mr. Nixon paid from his own pocket the \$200 one-way fare for himself, his wife, Pat, and daughter Tricia.

The plane carried normal crew, including 10 stewardesses and stewards, but a United official said the crew was not advised that Mr. Nixon would be aboard until half an hour before flight time. Other passengers didn't know until they were on the plane.

There were no curtains or dividers separating the President from other first class passengers.

As a first class passenger, Mr. Nixon was entitled to complimentary liquor and wine and a choice of four entrees, including beef and seafood, for dinner. He chose rib-eyed beef, the White House said.

The President had tentatively planned to go to his Key Biscayne family home before Christmas but apparently decided he could not make that trip without using government aircraft.

Warren said Mr. Nixon decided on Christmas Day to go instead to his San Clemente estate to overlook the ocean. "He had it checked out," Warren said of the commercial flight, and "found there was plenty of room on the DC-10 jetliner for himself and his party. "It was not a question of anyone having to get off the plane," he said.

While in California, Warren said, the President will work on the State of the Union and budget messages, on energy legislation and "hopefully get some rest." He said he expects Mr. Nixon to return to Washington after New Year's Day.

*Associated Press*