

170 Gallons for Nixon's Jaunts

San Clemente

President Nixon and his entourage used at least 170 gallons of gasoline for pleasure driving during the President's 18-day stay in Southern California.

Mr. Nixon has asked each American motorist to observe voluntarily a limit of 35 gallons per month.

A compilation based on the President's announced travel and on a conservative estimate of his drive on unannounced trips with C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo showed that Mr. Nixon himself drove about 500 miles in his Lincoln limousine. According to figures of the Environmental Protection Agency, the car gets 7.9 miles to the gallon — about 63 gallons for the 500 miles.

Mr. Nixon was accompanied on all of his drives by Secret Service agents in a late model station wagon, which also gets about eight miles to the gallon.

At least three other presidential cars made the 125-mile trip from the President's ocean side San Cle-

mente estate to Palm Desert, where Mr. Nixon was the guest of publishing magnate Walter Annenberg, the U.S. ambassador to Great Britain.

The miles per gallon estimate is based upon a rate of eight miles a gallon for the 500 miles driven by both the President and the Secret Service station wagon and 11 miles to the gallon for the three other cars, which accompanied Mr. Nixon from the airport to San Clemente.

Mr. Nixon's announced drives, in addition to the Palm Desert trip, have included a 106-mile round trip to La Jolla to attend the wedding of his physician, Dr. Walter Tkach, and shorter drives January 6 to the San Clemente Presbyterian church and to a Mexican restaurant for dinner.

White House officials confirmed privately that Mr. Nixon had taken six unannounced drives with Rebozo. One was a very short drive and the others were of two to three hours in duration.

Washington Post