

Nixon's Private Return

Washington

President Nixon returned to Washington early yesterday crossing the country in a small government jet after spending 18 days on a working vacation in California.

He spent yesterday afternoon watching the Super Bowl football game.

Aides said Mr. Nixon also expected to work on his State of the Union address, which he will deliver to Congress after it reconvenes January 21.

Mr. Nixon's departure from California was carefully guarded. Newsmen were not informed until his airplane was in the air.

Less than two hours before he left, White House officials told reporters the

President would spend the night in California. Later, the same officials said they had been unaware of Mr. Nixon's departure plans.

Mr. Nixon left Washington for his San Clemente estate December 26 aboard a commercial jetliner. The press had not been told in advance of that departure date, either.

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren said yesterday that a government plane carrying special communications equipment was used for the flight to Washington "for security reasons."

"It was felt that because of the wide anticipation he was going back commercially, the element of surprise was gone, and his security peo-

ple felt it was best he go back by government plane," Warren said.

Mr. Nixon was accompanied by Mrs. Nixon, daughter Tricia Nixon Cox, friend C.G. (Bebe) Rebozo, a military aide, his doctor and two Secret Service agents.

The president arrived at Andrews Air Force Base shortly after 3 a.m. EDT.

Associated Press



Mrs. Nixon (far left), the President and Tricia left the plane at Andrews base

AP Wirephoto