

Nixon Travels To Capital of Country Music

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

NASHVILLE, March 16— President Nixon, buoyed by his reception Friday in Chicago, flew here tonight to dedicate the Grand Ole Opry's new building and to welcome Mrs. Nixon home from her Latin American visit.

The President's travels this week to Chicago and Nashville, together with a visit he is to make to Houston Tuesday, are part of a new campaign to take his case to the people and attempt to win popular support as the House Judiciary Committee conducts its impeachment inquiry.

Some other speaking tours are believed to be in the planning stage.

The President's Chicago trip, one of his first north of the Mason-Dixon Line in some months, cheered him, aides said.

The President drew repeated applause Friday from more than 2,000 businessmen who attended the luncheon meeting of the Executives' Club. Despite a few critical questions, Mr. Nixon heard, for the first time in many months, friendly questions. Some of the questioners even indicated their support of him and their hostility toward his Watergate critics.

Tonight, in this capital city of country and Western music, Johnny Cash and other old friends of the President were on hand to greet him and to help him celebrate Mrs. Nixon's 62d birthday.

She flew here from Brazil and Florida, arriving shortly before the President, who flew from Washington. Mrs. Nixon had attended presidential inaugurations last week in Venezuela and Brazil. On Tuesday, the President is to go to Hous-

ton to speak and answer questions at the convention of the National Association of Broadcasters.

Commenting on the Chicago appearance, press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said that the President was very pleased. "It was a good forum," Ziegler said. "The questions were good. It gave him a chance to cover a lot of areas.

We were very pleased with the reception and the response to the answers," Ziegler said.

When asked about the President's remarks indicating cancellation of plans to visit Europe next month, Ziegler said the visit obviously would not be in April.

However, "I certainly would not write that the President has decided not to travel at all," he told reporters.

There have been repeated reports from the Middle East, and denials from the White House, that Mr. Nixon soon would visit the Middle East.

Plans for the President's projected trip to the Soviet Union are going forward, Ziegler said. He noted that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is to begin talks in Moscow March 25 to lay the groundwork for the President's Moscow visit.

When Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev was in the United States last June, it was agreed that Mr. Nixon would go to the Soviet Union sometime in 1974. There have been reports that the visit will be as early as May or June. Ziegler would not confirm a date, but he said he knows when the President plans to make the trip.

The President and Mrs. Nixon visited the Soviet Union in May, 1972, when the first agreement of the limitations of strategic arms was signed. The difficulties in reaching another SALT agreement appear to be the main obstacles now to a second visit.

Kissinger and Brezhnev are expected to have extended discussions on strategic arms.



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Patricia Nixon celebrates her 62d birthday abroad an Air Force plane en route from South America to Home-

stead Air Force Base in Florida. Later she flew to Nashville to join the President in 'Nashville' appearance.