

White House Intruder Called Competent

A St. Elizabeths Hospital psychologist testified yesterday that he thinks a Silver Spring man who crashed the gates of the White House on Christmas morning is mentally competent to stand trial, despite the man's belief that he is "a messiah."

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell delayed any ruling

on the question of Marshall Fields' competency pending an examination of the defendant by a nongovernment psychiatrist, at the request of Fields' defense attorney.

St. Elizabeths psychologist Dr. John Mahur was the only witness yesterday in a hearing before Judge Gesell. He said that there had been nothing

particularly unusual in Fields' behavior during his 30 days at the hospital.

Fields' main problem at this point, according to the doctor, is one of "delusional thinking."

"On the supposition that he is wrong and I am right, he is delusional in thinking that he is a messiah . . . that he has a

special mission," Dr. Mahur said. "I do not personally recognize him to be a messiah."

Dr. Mahur said that Fields is aware of the possible criminal consequences of his entry onto White House property, but that the defendant also feels that his alleged messianic mission could be carried on in jail.