Nixon addresses General Assembly

By HUGHIE MCKINNIGHT
Gamecock Staff Writer

President Nixon will be in Columbia at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow to thank the South Carolina General Assembly for endorsing his Vietnam Peace Policy, Gov. John West said Friday.

At Friday's press conference Gov. West and House Speaker Solomon Blatt said Nixon had accepted a joint invitation from them and Senate President Pro Temp Marion Gressette, D-Columbia County, to visit the state.

West and Blatt said that on Jan. 24 South Carolina became the first state to pass a resolution supporting Nixon's Vietnam peace efforts. The endorsement came after the Jan. 23 cease-fire announcement.

The resolution said, in part: "All Americans joyously welcome President Richard M. Nixon's words announcing the impending end of the Vietnam War and the outlining of a settlement deemed just and honorable, including among its provisions the release of all American prisoners of war throughout Indochina and the fullest possible accounting of all those missing in action."

The resolution concluded with, "That the General Assembly desires to commend President Richard M. Nixon for his successful efforts in bringing the Vietnam War to an end."

The legislature unanimously approved the endorsement proposed by Rep. Thomas M. Marchant III, R-Greenville, and 19 other House members.

Commenting on the political end of the visit, Blatt said, "I certainly have no reason to suppose that the President has political motivations. He is not playing any political game because it involves a war that he did not start."

Blatt said Harry Dent and White House Special Assistant David Parker arranged the visit after news of the peace endorsement reached the White House.

The Speaker added that Dent "stated to me over the telephone that the President was interested and that if we invited him he would be delighted to come."

State Republican Party officials said 125 of the 200 State House gallery seats were reserved for public attendance of the address. The remaining 75 are for members of the press, they said.

Nixon's speech will also be televised on the South Carolina Educational Television Network.

Details of the President's itinerary during his Tuesday visit have not been announced.

But former Presidential Assistant Harry Dent said that Nixon's plans were to come to Columbia, deliver the speech and leave.

Weather study

The USC Division of Educational Services will offer a short course in "Popular Meteorology" March 8 through April 12.

The course, a non-technical one for amateur weathermen, will be held 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday nights in the Carolina Coliseum.

Classes, which will be taught by USC geography Prof. Robert L. Janiskee, will cover the elements and influences of weather and examine some of the techniques used to observe, analyze, forecast and modify the world's weather.

The fee for the course is $14 per person or $24 for a married couple.

For further information on the "Popular Meteorology" course, contact the Division of Educational Services or call 777-2589.