

Nixon Invites

3,800 Home

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By Dorothy McCardle

President Nixon won an ovation from his audience—and raised eyebrows from Mrs. Nixon's staff back home—when he invited some 3,800 members of the Daughters of the American Revolution to come make themselves at home at the White House today. He promised them the run of the place.

He issued his blanket invitation yesterday when he spoke at the morning session of DAR's 83d Continental Congress at Constitution Hall. Its theme is America's place in the world today.

The women interrupted him constantly with applause when the President promised that First Lady Pat Nixon will move out of the second floor family quarters and he will move out of Oval Office so the DAR delegates can roam throughout the White House at will.

But Mrs. Nixon's staff had obviously not been alerted in advance about the wide-open invitation.

"What are we going to do?" asked one of Mrs. Nixon's aides when she heard

about the President's speech. "Where will Mrs. Nixon go? We had thought this was just to be tour of the public rooms, and now it seems that the entire White House will be open to the Daughters."

The Daughters were delighted. They clapped, snapped pictures with their cameras and took notes in notebooks poised on their knees as the President spoke.

"I wish I could give you each a memento," the President said. "But I guess there are too many of you, so just don't take anything that's nailed down."

The retiring President General, Mrs. Donald Spencer, who is a Nixon neighbor in California, sparked the ovation when she told the President that the Daughters wanted "to show you our support and how deeply we believe." She was cut short by cheers.

The President did not mention any of his problems—Watergate or impeachment of domestic politics. He kept to the American Revolution and its continuing meaning for the world today.