

Nixon Seeks, Gets Support In Mississippi

By William Greider

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JACKSON, Miss., April 25— Surrounded by 12,000 friendly Mississippians, President Nixon today gave an inspirational sermon on the American spirit and the promise of better days ahead.

"A day will come," Mr. Nixon said, his hand aloft, "I can see it now, 25 years from now, a President of the United States, I trust, may be standing in this very place... he will look back to this critical generation of ours and he will say: 'They did not fail when the going was very difficult and American leadership was so important to the world.'"

The throng jammed inside Mississippi's fairgrounds coliseum stood and cheered along with several thousand more listening by loudspeaker outside. Their Democratic governor, William Waller, asked rhetorically: "Do you believe he's in a friendly place right now?" The answer was another affirmative ovation from the audience.

The President's speech made no reference to his troubles back in Washington, the subpoena from the House Judiciary Committee or the impeachment investigation it is conducting. But his appearance in Jackson was clearly another campaign stop in Mr. Nixon's struggle to avoid ouster as Chief Executive. It was, like other recent speeches, an appeal for popular support in his time of peril. "An American President," he said, "must have the backing of a strong and united people."

Waller spoke more directly to local sentiments about the President and impeachment while he was chatting with reporters at the Jackson airport, waiting for "The Spirit of '76" to land with Mr. and Mrs. Nixon and their party.

"In order to have a friend," Waller said, "you have to be a friend. President Nixon has been a good friend and I believe the people of Mississippi are responding to that."

What do the people of Mississippi think of the impeachment inquiry?

"There are two things to say," the governor replied. "A man is innocent until proven



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Mr. Nixon in Jackson: "An American President must have the backing of a strong and united people."

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on Budgeting Budgets for*

President Promises Better Days

By PRESIDENT, From A1

guilty and there are always errors made by people who are trying to do something. We live by and believe in a forgiving spirit of justice."

The governor's generous attitude toward the President was reflected too in the crowds along the highway and at the hall, as they waved a few flags and posters to salute the Nixon motorcade. "We Love You and We Pray for You," said the sign held by a young mother with her three children. "Nixon Now More Than Ever," said another, echoing the President's campaign slogan of 1972.

Mississippians gave him 78 per cent of their votes in that election and, by the governor's judgment, this is one state where the sentiment hasn't turned against him, thanks partly to Nixon administration aid to hurricane and flood victims.

In his speech, Mr. Nixon acknowledged that the nation's economy is not moving at the moment, but he asserted that the first-quarter slump is already leveling off and that output will return to normal growth and prosperity in the third and fourth quarters of the year. He was addressing a luncheon of the Mississippi Economic Council, but the audience included thousands of students and others.

The President said that he would make recommendations within two weeks in an administration plan to stimulate the housing industry, one of the key components in the first-quarter decline.

The auto industry, also down in the first quarter, is heading toward a good year, the President said, "not the best, but a good one."

Notwithstanding calls for a tax cut and extended wage-and-price controls by Democrats in Congress, the President said, the solution to inflation is more production and