

Nixon Says Aides Will Get To Bottom of the Scandal

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

5/10/73

WASHINGTON, May 9—President Nixon assured Republican leaders and contributors tonight that his appointees would "get to the bottom of this very deplorable" Watergate scandal, and that the scandal would not paralyze the Government.

Buoyed by a warm reception, the President said, "You can be sure that the business of your Government is going forward." He said he remained convinced

Excerpts from Nixon talk are printed on Page 36.

that his principal mission was "the building of a new structure of peace in the world."

"We are not going to allow this deplorable incident to deflect us or deter us from going forward toward the great goals that an overwhelming majority of Americans elected us to pursue," Mr. Nixon said.

Acknowledges Challenge

The President's tone was relaxed as he spoke at a \$1,000-a-plate fund-raising dinner at the Washington Hilton.

In his remarks to 1,500 Republicans, 500 of whom had been admitted free, the President acknowledged that disclosures in the Watergate case presented him with one of his most difficult challenges.

The President expressed confidence in Attorney General-designate Elliot L. Richardson and in the special Watergate prosecutor whom Mr. Richardson has promised to appoint. Mr. Nixon said, "They will get to the bottom of this thing and see that all those who are guilty will be prosecuted and brought to justice."

Mr. Nixon implicitly criticized some adversaries who were inclined, he said, to "con-

Continued on Page 36, Column 6

Continued From Page 1, Col. 6

vict people in their own minds before they have been heard." The proper place to determine guilt or innocence, he said, is "the courts of law."

'The Finest Steel'

On a more personal note, Mr. Nixon added:

"I have had political ups and downs in my 27 years of politics. I have known times when I wondered if I had many friends. I don't stand here tonight as a loser—we stand here tonight as winners.

"The finest steel has to go through the hottest fire. I can assure you that this room is full of fine steel."

The Republican leaders, who were already perturbed by the potential political impact of the Watergate case, were confronted at the dinner with tangible evidence that the scandal had hurt their party.

They learned that receipts for the evening reached only \$750,000—half the average total for similar fund-raising events in recent years and far below the stated goal of \$2-million.

Buel Berentson, director of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee, one of the sponsors of the dinner, said that last-minute receipts might push the total close to \$800,000.

Another official of the dinner, which is also sponsored by the Republican National Committee and the House Republican Campaign Committee, commented privately: "Three months ago we had a President re-elected by a record majority, and we thought we were going to rake the money in. Now all we have is Watergate, and we're hurting."

Shortly before the dinner began, the White House disclosed that President Nixon, who had been scheduled to make an informal, 10-minute speech, had asked for more time. The dinner was also opened to coverage by television networks.

Among the prominent ab-

sentees was Senator Barry Goldwater, the Arizona Republican, who said several weeks ago that the dinner should be postponed or canceled and returned his ticket. His press spokesman, Tony Smith, said that the Senator was at West Point tonight for a ceremony honoring General of the Army Omar N. Bradley.

Referring to Watergate, Mr. Goldwater had said "I've been receiving letters and calls from Republican friends of mine all around the country and they are saying, 'No more money to the Republican National Committee until this is cleared up.'"

Ticket sales may have been

Connally Says Nixon Has Not Offered Job

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 9

(UPI)—Former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally said today that President Nixon had not offered him a post in Washington, but he indicated that he might accept a position if requested by the President.

"I don't anticipate that he will," Mr. Connally said in a news conference after his speech to the American Feed Manufacturers Association convention. "If I'm asked to do something, I might do it."

Mr. Connally, who switched from the Democratic party to the Republican party last week, sidestepped questions about his political aspirations for 1976.

WASHINGTON, May 9 (AP)

—David Packard, the industrialist, citing the press of personal business, has taken himself out of the running for nomination as Secretary of Defense, sources reported today. Mr. Packard, a former Under Secretary of Defense, reportedly has informed President Nixon of his decision,

hampered by the new campaign fund-raisers to avoid identification law, which closed a loophole that had enabled contributors to District of Columbia. The huge fund surplus held by the Committee for the Re-election of the President also may have deterred sales.

Party leaders, whose relationships with the White House staff and the re-election committee were never cordial, are particularly bitter that activities of Presidential aides have cast them and the party into disrepute.

Their antagonism showed through a letter sent out two weeks ago over the signatures of George Bush, the party chairman, Senator Bill Brock of Tennessee, chairman of the Senate committee, and Representative Robert H. Michel of Illinois, chairman of the House committee.

"At no time," the letter said, "has the Republican National Committee or its financial arm, the Republican National Finance Committee, or the Congressional or Senatorial committees, been accused of any wrongdoing in their political activities or handling of campaign funds last year.

"But the fact remains that many of our supporters identify these committees as part and parcel of what they are reading in the papers. This is very unfortunate, because the 'Watergate Affair' has had an effect on our fund-raising."

Two of the three men honored at the dinner were forced out of their party posts recently by the Nixon Administration.

Vice President Agnew presented the awards, which went to Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, the party chairman last year; Senator Peter H. Dornick of Colorado, the Senate committee chairman last year; and Representative Bob Wilson of California, the House committee chairman last year.

Mr. Dole was asked for his resignation and Mr. Wilson was pressed to quit.

Excerpts From Nixon Speech to G.O.P.

Following are excerpts from a speech by President Nixon last night to a fund-raising dinner in Washington, as recorded through the facilities of A.B.C. News:

I have been hearing that this would be less than an enthusiastic dinner tonight; and I must say that you have proved that perhaps the critics were wrong.

Now as is always my custom before speaking before any audience, such a distinguished group as this, I ask the chairman what I should talk about. And it just happened this afternoon I met with the chairman—Chairman [George] Bush . . . and we had a discussion about this dinner tonight and what you would like to hear about.

You've already heard the Vice President praise the accomplishments of the Administration and so for me to add to that would simply be, of course, adding praise for what he says I have done; but which you have made possible. And all of us working together have made possible.

And I will have something to say about that as I conclude tonight.

Notes Concern

But it's always been my practice before any kind of an audience to take on those subjects that some people think you don't want to take on because they're difficult ones.

Let me say, I didn't get where I am by ducking tough issues. And I believe—

I'm keenly aware of the fact that many Americans—everybody in this room, for example—are concerned about the developments that we've been reading about and hearing about in recent weeks and recent months. I expressed my concern just a few days ago on national television. I will not add to what I said then except to make some comments that I think are quite appropriate at this time.

In the American political process one of the most difficult tasks of all comes when charges are made against high officials in an Administration. That's a very great test of an Administration and

many times in the history of our country, Administrations have failed to meet the test of investigating those charges that might be embarrassing to the Administration because they were made against high officials in an Administration.

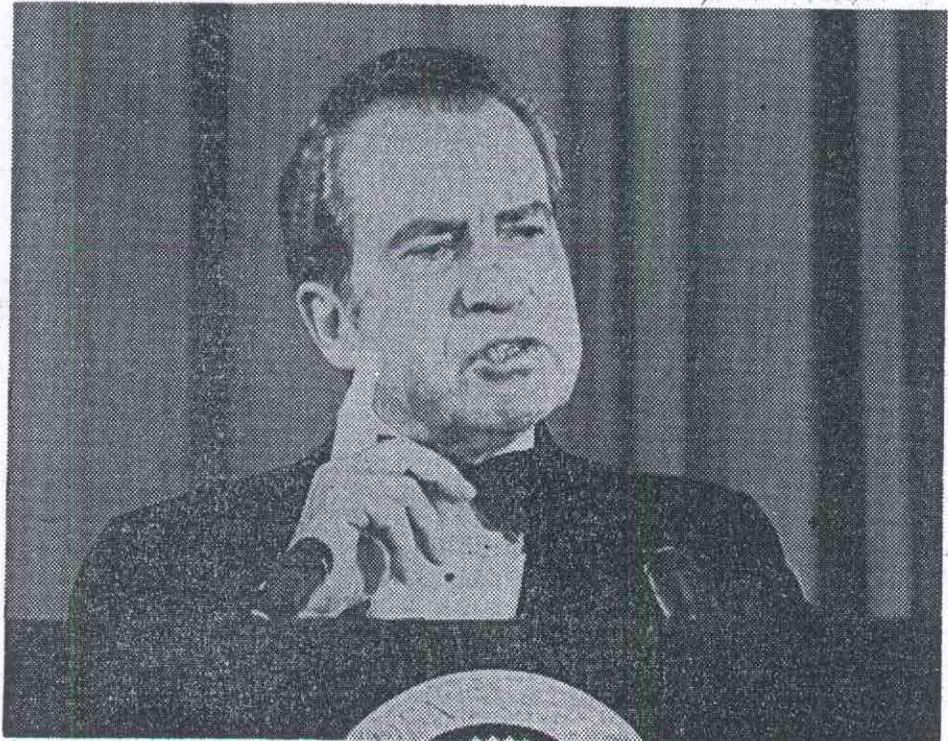
We have had such a situation, we have been confronted with it, we are dealing with it, and I will simply say to you tonight that this nation—Republicans, Democrats, Independents, all Americans—can have confidence in the fact that the new nominee for Attorney

General, Elliot Richardson, and the special prosecutor that he will appoint in this case will have the total cooperation of the executive branch of this Government.

Pledges Justice

They will get to the bottom of this thing. They will see to it that all of those who are guilty are prosecuted and are brought to justice. That is the pledge I make tonight, and that I think the American people are entitled to it.

But I would add that the place where that should happen is in the courts of law. Charges are these days made rather easily, as we know, in our political process, and there is sometimes



The New York Times/Mike Lien

President Nixon addressing Republican leaders at fund-raising dinner last night

a tendency for us to convict the innocent in our own mind before they have the opportunity to be heard — before they had the opportunity, even if charges are made, to be tried. And let us resolve tonight that until we hear the evidence, until those who had been charged have had a chance to present their case in a court of law, let's uphold the great American tradition that an individual, even a government official, is innocent until he's proved guilty.

I also want to add a word with regard to what all this is going to mean to the next three-and-a-half and a bit more years that we have in office as a result of the election last November.

I can assure that we will get to the bottom of this very deplorable incident. We should do everything that we can to develop new legislative tools which will deal with this kind of abuse and other abuses as practiced too often in many campaigns by both parties over the years.

But the most important thing I want to say tonight is this: We are not going to allow this deplorable incident to deter us or deflect from going forward toward achieving the great goals that an overwhelming majority of the American people elected us to achieve in November of 1972.

We received the greatest popular majority in history for a good reason. The American people had a clear choice. And the same reasons and the same choice exist today as it did exist then. And when we look at those goals, some of which the Vice President has referred to so eloquently, when we look at those goals, it is our responsibility at this time to go forward now and achieve them. And that we do intend to do.

And I can assure you that whether it's at a Cabinet meeting that we will be having in the morning, or whether it's a meeting with legislative leaders that we will be having next week, that you can be sure the business of your Government is going forward and we're going to

make the next four years — better than the last four years — and that's something Americans are entitled to.

Great Progress Cited

As you know, in a few weeks I shall probably be meeting with the leader of the Soviet Union in the return visit that he will be making to the United States.

And as the Vice President has indicated, we have had great progress over the past year, particularly in trying to work toward not just ending a war that had gone on much too long — 12 years as a matter of fact — but in building a more peaceful world so that, for example, the leaders of one-fourth of all the people in the world wouldn't be out there isolated from the rest of the world, with the danger of a confrontation 15 to 20 years from now being inherited by our children.

And making progress as we have made it with the other great superpower, the Soviet Union. Progress that does not resolve the basic differences between our various systems of government and our philosophies. They are there. They will remain. But progress toward seeing to it that differences can be resolved, around a conference table, after hard bargaining. Which is what we did last year, and what we intend to do, as a result of very careful planning that is now going forward, this year as well.

Stresses Peace

What I would like to say to you, my friends, is this: Every individual, I'm sure, who occupies the office of the President tries to think of one thing he wants more than anything else. And I could name many goals tonight that I want more than anything else.

But, more important than anything else for the present President of the United States is the goal of building a new structure of peace in the world. And the reason that is the most important role is that unless the President of the United States, backed by the people of the United States, and the Congress,

takes the leadership in this field, we will not have peace. That is the truth of the matter.

Because there is no other free nation that is strong enough, and there is no other group of nations that has the will to provide that leadership.

We have tried to meet that responsibility over the past four years. And we have made progress. We are going to continue to make it — meet that responsibility over the next three and a half years. As I have indicated.

But in order to meet it, it is essential that we concentrate our minds and our hearts and our souls and our energy toward achieving that goal, as well as the others that I mentioned in my speech a few days ago and that the Vice President referred to in his introduction today.

Cites 'Real Friends'

And that brings me to a personal note, referring to everybody here. I have had, as you know, some political ups and downs during my 27 years in politics; and I have known times when I wondered if I had very many friends. And every man or woman who has been in politics knows that when you win, they're all your friends, and when you lose, it's pretty hard to find them except when you lose and they're still there, they're the real friends.

Let me say, I don't stand here tonight as a loser. We stand here tonight as winners and we're going to win again.

But I shall always remember this group tonight; remember that when the going was tough, you hung in there; remember that when the challenge was greatest you didn't lose your faith. And if some of you think that why does this kind of challenge have to come to us — why do we have to endure it — let me remind you that the finest steel has to go through the hottest fire. And I can assure you, my friends, this room is full of fine steel tonight.

Thank you.

DECLASSIFICATION OF DATA GOES ON

Archivist Informs Senators
of Vastness of Assignment

WASHINGTON, May 9 (AP)

—Despite cumbersome and time-consuming procedures, the process of declassifying millions of secret Government papers is proceeding on schedule, the project supervisor said today.

James B. Rhoads, the National Archivist who is the acting chairman of the Interagency Classification Review Committee, told a Senate committee hearing:

"There is reasonable basis for optimism" that President Nixon's classification reform order will prove successful in the long run.

But Mr. Rhoads conceded that some requests for declassification of historical documents "are simply beyond the Government's resources at the present time."

An Unfulfilled Request

He cited a request by The New York Times for the United States-Soviet lend-lease agreement and lists of material delivered to the Soviet Union under terms of the agreement in 1942 and 1943.

To consider releasing the material "would have required a declassification review of over 600,000 pages of records," Mr. Rhoads said. Such a task is impossible for the Government to

handle, he said.

He also noted that the regulations required persons seeking a declassification review to identify almost exactly the documents they wanted, rather than asking in general terms for papers pertaining to particular incidents.

"Since exact information about the existence of Government documents is often not known, it may be extremely difficult for a requester to comply," Mr. Rhoads said. "This problem, of course, is not unique to requests for classified documents. It applies to any request for Government documents in general."

'Need for Secrecy'

Mr. Rhoads said that classification procedures historically had emphasized "the need for secrecy at the expense of the right to know." He said that the current review process promised to bring better balance to the goals.

However, Representative Patsy T. Mink, Democrat of Hawaii, said that Government officials seized upon legal loopholes to promote unreasonable secrecy.

Mrs. Mink asserted: "The national security exception, originally intended by Congress to be narrowly construed and implemented, has instead been enlarged and expanded by the executive branch to encompass virtually any information the executive branch desires to withhold."

She urged the passage of amendments to the Freedom of Information Act to restrict further the Government's right to classify documents.

Mrs. Mink also proposed the creation of a special House-Senate committee empowered to declassify Government documents on its own.