

Nixon Gets Cheers, Boos In Georgia

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By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

MACON, Ga., Nov. 18 — President Nixon, heartened by reaction to his meeting Saturday night with the Associated Press Managing Editors Association, won additional applause here today from an enthusiastic group of his Georgia supporters.

The warmth of the welcome was marred, however, by a group of several hundred Mercer University students and faculty who greeted his arrival at the Mercer campus with boos and chants of "Nixon must go."

Otherwise, the President received a campaign-type welcome in this Democratic state which he carried just a year ago by 881,000 to 289,000.

Accompanied by Mrs. Nixon, the President flew here from Key Biscayne, Fla., to participate in a joint ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of Mercer's Walter F. George Law School and the 90th birthday of former Democratic Rep. Carl M. Vinson.

The President announced that this country's third nuclear aircraft carrier, which is now being built, would be named the USS Vinson. The first nuclear carrier was named for Dwight D. Eisenhower and the second for Adm. Chester Nimitz.

En route here, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler told reporters that the reaction to the President's hour-long question-and-answer session Saturday night near Orlando, Fla., in which he replied to a series of Watergate questions, was highly favorable.

Ziegler said the response was "quantitatively larger" than the adverse reaction following the dismissal of Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Ziegler charged that "a lot" of the mail to Capitol Hill following the Cox firing and calling for the President's impeachment was "manufactured and coordinated reaction."

"There was a coordinated

pattern of stimulated negative mail referring to resignation and impeachment," Ziegler said. "There's no question about it."

The outpouring was "manufactured" by "traditional adversaries of the President," the press secretary declared, charging that staff members of the Ralph Nader organization and of Common Cause used congressional offices to "drum up" criticism of the President.

See PRESIDENT, A5, Col. 1

PRESIDENT, From A1

In his televised meeting with the editors in Orlando, Mr. Nixon fielded a host of critical questions. Ziegler said the telephone and telegraph reaction to the session and to his recent speech on the need to conserve energy were "as large as I've ever seen them, on the positive side."

Alexander M. Haig Jr., White House chief of staff, commenting on the President's "buoyancy" after the meeting said there had been a "tremendous reaction."

"We've got to take 'em on," he said in commenting on the President's critics. "We can't go on the way we are" with the entire world watching the fight over the presidency.

Haig urged reporters not to read any significance into the President's comment Saturday night to the editors that "I am relatively healthy at present" and that he would continue in his job "as long as I am physically able."

This was merely the President's way of stressing his intention to remain in office and finish his job, "barring an act of God," Haig explained.

When Mr. Nixon's plane landed here today at Robins Air Force Base outside Macon, a crowd estimated at more than 5,000 was on hand to cheer him. There were no hostile signs in the crowd and many friendly ones, including some denouncing the press.

"We love and support President Nixon," one sign said. Another said, "Keep up the good work."

Although he seemed to be very tired, the President responded to the crowd's welcome and made an unscheduled speech, emphasizing the need to keep the country strong.

"I believe we can build a

peace that will last," he told the airport crowd.

Crowds also lined part of the long motorcade route into the city.

It was not until the President's car pulled into the Mercer campus that he saw hostile signs calling for his impeachment or resignation and denouncing his Watergate role.

When the President entered the college chapel where the ceremonies were held he could hear the chant of "Nixon must go" shouted by students outside.

Petitions were circulated on the campus in support of and against the invitation to the President before he arrived. Four anti-Nixon professors circulated a statement asserting that they had planned to walk out of the chapel when the President began to speak but were denied entrance. They called the President a rattlesnake.

Sen. Herman E. Talmadge, a member of the Senate Watergate committee, was one of those paying tribute to Vinson, who served for 50 years in the House and was the long-time chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Talmadge never mentioned the President.

Vinson, who spoke at length and in a loud voice, warmly praised the President, asserting that he was a man of "ability, courage and patriotism."

The President praised Vinson and his support for a strong national defense.

In a reference to his critics outside the chapel, the President said "I want a world for these young people that we heard outside a few moments ago" where they won't be drafted and in which they "can work with their young colleagues in Russia, in China, in Latin America, in Africa" on health, environment, energy and other critical questions.

***\$185 Million Health Bill
Signed by President***

President Nixon Saturday signed a bill authorizing \$185 million over the next three years to improve emergency medical services in areas of need.

Mr. Nixon had vetoed an earlier version, largely because it included a provision requiring the continued operation of eight Public Health Service hospitals the administration wants to close. The provision has been added to another bill.

The emergency medical services bill increases from 50 to 75 per cent the federal share of grants for manpower, training and equipment to improve such services. Twenty per cent of the money is earmarked for rural areas.



United Press International

Children reach out for President Nixon's hand after his arrival at Robins Air Force Base outside Macon, Ga.

Governors Praise Nixon's Openness

11/19/73

By Lou Cannon
and Helen Dewar

Washington Post Staff Writers

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov. 18—

Republicans governors of varied ideologies today praised the new openness of President Nixon but warned that he must come completely clean with the American people if he expects to restore his Watergate-shattered credibility.

"We're not going to be housemen for the White House and try to whitewash one of the sorriest pages in American political history," said Oregon Gov. Tom McCall.

On the eve of the winter conference of the Republican Governors Association, incoming Chairman Winfield Dunn of Tennessee and McCall agreed that Mr. Nixon's decision to take the offensive against the many allegations of scandal involving the White House had succeeded in forestalling any resolution by the governors calling for impeachment or resignation. But they said that Mr. Nixon must answer the charges against him if he hopes to restore his credibility completely.

"Mr. President, you've got to become more credible, more human," said McCall. "You're on the way back but we don't buy that you're all the way back."

At a joint news conference with McCall and New Hampshire Gov. Meldrim Thomson Jr., Dunn praised the "candid and honest" performance of the President when he answered questions Saturday night of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association in Florida. But Dunn also



GOV. TOM McCALL
... rules out "whitewash"

agreed that Republicans must be careful in the way they express their support.

"I would agree 100 per cent with Tom that a purely partisan knee-jerk reaction is not what Republican governors will offer..." Dunn said.

He added that he didn't think the President would want such an endorsement.

McCall is one of the most liberal and outspoken Republican governors, and he has been critical of the administration on Watergate. However, a similar view was expressed by one of Mr. Nixon's most consistent defenders, California Gov. Ronald Reagan.

In an interview Reagan praised the President for speaking and said Mr. Nixon's action indicated a presidential

See GOVERNORS, A7, Col. 1

belief "that the facts are on his side." Reagan suggested that Mr. Nixon ought to go further and hold televised meetings with small groups of commentators to answer questions about Watergate and other allegations.

The 17 state governors—Francis Sargent of Massachusetts and Stanley K. Hathaway of Wyoming are absent—will meet Tuesday with the President in Memphis.

Both Dunn and McCall said they would request that the meeting, now planned as a closed session, be opened to the press.

Energy will be the main issue before the governors.

They will hear speeches Tuesday from administration energy director John A. Love and from Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton. While it is unclear whether the governors will make any statement at all on Watergate, it is considered likely that they will attempt to draft a GOP policy position on the energy crisis.

One indication of the differences between the governors on this issue came when Thomson advocated the suspension of air pollution control restrictions on automobiles, at least during the winter, as a means of conserving fuel.

McCall warned against "turning tail" on efforts to clean up the water and the air because of energy concerns. He said that it may be necessary to suspend pollution regulations on a case-by-case basis, as President Nixon has advocated.

The Oregon governor lauded the President's energy message and said that it would mark the turning point for his administration if he escaped from the "Watergate woods."

Watergate concerns are heightened by the mathematics of the 1974 election, when 12 of the 19 seats now held by Republican governors are up for re-election. The governors didn't agree on the proscriptive effects of Watergate, however.

Dunn and Thomson said that state elections would be determined on the basis of state issues. McCall said that Watergate was a "minus" for the party but that President Nixon could become a plus for it if he continues to restore credibility. Reagan said that Watergate had hurt all incumbents but that Republicans were the minority and could afford it least.