

Ford Talk Was Liked on Both Sides of Aisle

Washington

President Ford's address to Congress won strong praise from members of both parties on Capitol Hill last night with special accolades for his pledge to fight inflation, his conciliatory tone and his promise to observe constitutional principles.

"A bellringer, a good speech that has a sense of kinship, a plea for cooperation and a personal touch of warmth and friendliness," said Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.).

Senate Democratic Whip Robert C. Byrd (Dem-W. Va.) said, "The President is off to a good start. I appreciated his comments on the need to restrain federal spending and his emphasis on maintaining a strong defense, together with his assurances of the continuation of the laudable foreign policy innovations initiated by President Nixon."

However, Byrd added, "I hope that we can look forward to something stronger than a Cost of Living Council that has no enforcement powers. I would like to see consideration given to restoration of wage and price and other controls."

House Majority leader Thomas P. O'Neill of Massachusetts said: "He was the Jerry Ford we all know, a warm human being despite the aura of high office. He asked for our help and our constructive criticism. You can bet we will give him that."

"I thought as he developed the talk he got a little partisan in setting priorities."

"He mentioned compromise, conciliation, cooperation and communications and our door is open to the President's four C's."

Deputy Democratic House

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Go to Europe

Washington

President Ford is considering a "goodwill" tour of Western Europe and may ask Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev to move up his visit to the United States, now planned for next summer, White House sources said yesterday.

"I think a presidential trip is in the cards," said one well-placed official. "A tour of several European capitals is more likely than a summit meeting."

The new President, guided by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, also intends to have Washington maintain its initiative in the Middle East. He will meet tomorrow with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi and on Friday with Jordan's King Hussein. The sources said Egyptian President Anwar Sadat may visit relatively soon.

Hussein will be the first foreign chief of state to meet with Mr. Ford.

Associated Press

Whip John Brademas of Indiana said, "I was pleased that there was a strong indication that he wanted to work with Congress. But I was concerned about some of his economic statements. He wants a balanced budget but he does not want to cut defense. It's not clear where he's going to cut and how he can be President of all the people and manage to keep those priorities."

"He seemed to say federal spending was the principal cause of inflation," Brademas said, calling this a possibly "oversimplistic view not taking in factors like increased oil prices and monetary policies."

Third-ranking House Republican John Anderson of Illinois said, "He did not want it to be a definitive statement. I think he wisely chose to limit it to general goals. I thought the tone was one appealing to Congress for cooperation. Mr. Nixon was concerned about the same inflationary problems, too, but Mr. Ford indicated his concern would not take the form of vetoes and impoundment and I think he set a different and very welcome course. I think it augurs for more success."

House Speaker Carl Albert said, "I think it was an appropriate speech for the occasion. Until we see his shopping list we won't know exactly what he's talking about. But I think he's measuring his steps as he goes."

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