

PRESIDENT WINS MIDWEST BACKER FOR TAX SHARING

Gov. Hearnese of Missouri
Shifts Stand—Nixon Met
by Protesters in Iowa

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DES MOINES, Iowa, March 1 —President Nixon's plea for support of his revenue-sharing program, punctuated by a pledge to add \$100-million to rural development funds, received the backing of a Democratic Governor here today but touched off a demonstration by an unusual coalition of farmers, antiwar protesters and construction workers.

Gov. Warren E. Hearnes of Missouri announced after he and three other Midwestern Governors had spent two hours with the President that he would drop his opposition to the President's revenue-sharing plan.

He Talked With Mills

The Democratic Governor said that his new position was based on a conversation in Washington last week with Representative Wilbur D. Mills, Arkansas Democrat, who is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and an opponent of revenue sharing.

Mr. Hearnes said he had learned then that Mr. Mills, contrary to published reports, would not support the Federal assumption of welfare costs, which Mr. Hearnes had previously endorsed.

Without Mr. Mills's support, the Federal assumption would not likely be enacted, Mr. Hearnes said, so he has decided to back Mr. Nixon's program to channel Federal funds to states and cities in lump sums with no strings attached.

Demonstrators Turn Out

Outside the Iowa State Capitol today, construction workers, angry about the President's steps to cut down spiraling costs in the industry, and farmers, upset with price levels, stood shoulder to shoulder with young antiwar demonstrators.

Inside, President Nixon told a joint session of the Iowa Senate and House of Representatives that he had faith in state and local government as sources of power close to the people. That was why, he said, he sought to share Federal tax dollars with them and reform the national Executive branch, forging "a new partnership that can give us prosperity with peace, progress with unity and freedom with diversity."

It was the first of several trips planned by the President

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to carry to the people his program of reforms. He spent five hours in Des Moines.

Mr. Nixon announced that he was adding the \$100-million to the \$1-billion earmarked for rural community development under the program known as special revenue sharing. Most of the money in special revenue sharing would come from existing Federal grant-in-aid programs but would be provided to states and localities without the restrictions that now apply.

Combined with the President's request for approval of a \$5-billion program of general revenue sharing with all the states and cities in the 1972 fiscal year and with reforms of the executive branch of the Federal Government, the benefits to rural America would be obvious, the President said.

His speech was greeted by warm, if infrequent applause of the Republican-dominated legislature. Mr. Nixon was clearly happy to find smiling faces among shoppers in downtown Des Moines as he drove from the capitol to the Des Moines Hotel, where he met with the Governors of four Midwestern states.

But the 700 or more demonstrators on the capitol grounds, who chased after the President's motorcade waving signs and shouting obscenities, were another matter.

Farmers hoisted banners that declared, "We want prices, not promises." Several farmers quoted Mr. Nixon's speech, which he delivered in Des Moines in September, 1968, as a Presidential candidate, declaring that a parity ratio of 74 per cent under President Johnson was "intolerable in my book."

Under Mr. Nixon, the farmers charged, the parity level—a ratio of farm costs to farm prices — has dropped to a current level of 68 per cent.

Construction workers in the crowd had been urged to appear by state labor officials, angry that the President last week suspended the Davis-Bacon Act, a law that had mandated that local prevailing wages be paid to workers on Federal or federally-assisted construction projects.

One man, his yellow hard hat emblazoned with an American flag decal, said he did not mind demonstrating alongside long-haired antiwar protesters "as long as they do it peaceful, like us."

A few snowballs were tossed

in the air as Mr. Nixon waved to the demonstrators walking slowly down the Capitol steps to his limousine.

In his address and in a report on rural development programs that he submitted today to Congress, Mr. Nixon maintained that there had been important gains in his Administration's concern for the well-being of rural residents. He said his programs would build on that base.

The President sought to reassure those who might be alarmed that his program to combine seven Cabinet departments into four would abolish among others, the job of Secretary of Agriculture.

"Under the present setup," he said, "only one Cabinet department represents the farmer. Under my proposed reorganization, four Cabinet secretaries—half the Cabinet — will be speaking up for the farmer when his diverse interests are at stake."

Following the Capitol appearance, Mr. Nixon met with Governors Robert D. Ray of Iowa, Richard B. Ogilvie of Illinois, Patrick J. Lucey of Wisconsin, all Republicans, and Mr. Hearnes.

The Missouri Governor said that he and Mr. Lucey had

asked Mr. Mills in Washington about his support of a Federal take-over of all welfare costs. He said that Mr. Mills had told them he did not favor a Federal assumption of the program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, a sizable portion of the over-all welfare burden.

Mr. Mills was not immediately available for comment. Aides to the President appeared confident, however, that Mr. Hearnes had accurately expressed the committee chairman's position.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said the purpose of the meeting today was to sound out the Governors on rural development and other Administration proposals.

Accompanying Mr. Nixon were his wife, Pat, and four Cabinet members—George Romney, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior; Maurice H. Stans, Secretary of Commerce, and Clifford M. Hardin, Secretary of Agriculture. The Labor Department was represented by an assistant secretary, Jerome Rosow.

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Associated Press

NIXON IN DES MOINES: The President leans forward toward right rear as he confers with Governors of four Midwestern states and other government and farm officials. At left is Rogers C. B. Morton, the Interior Secretary.



United Press International

THE SIGNS WERE AGAINST HIM: Antiwar demonstrators shared Iowa State Capitol grounds with construction workers and farmers as the President arrived in Des Moines.