

Campaign '72

'Our New Majority'

*Richard Nixon accepts
the Republican Party's
presidential nomination.*

MIAMI BEACH — (AP) — Following is the text of President Nixon's acceptance speech last night for nomination to a second term:

Mr. Chairman, delegates to the convention, my fellow Americans.

Four years ago, standing in this very place I proudly accepted your nomination for president of the United States.

With your help and the votes of millions of Americans we won a great victory in 1968.

Tonight, I again proudly accept your nomination.

Let us pledge ourselves to work for an even greater victory this November.

I congratulate Chairman Ford, Chairman Dole and the hundreds of others who have laid the foundation for that victory by your work at this great convention.

I particularly pay tribute to the 4000 young volunteers who have participated in our convention.

By your enthusiasm, your intelligence and your hard work you have demonstrated that those who have conceded the youth vote to our opponents are wrong. Let us all work toward the goal of winning a majority of America's new voters this November.

I congratulate the delegates to this convention for re-nominating as my running mate the man who has just so generously introduced me, Vice President Spiro Agnew.

Best Man for Job

I thought he was the best man for the job four years ago. I believe he is the best man for the job today. And I am not going to change my mind tomorrow.

Finally, you have demonstrated to the nation that we can have an open convention without dividing Americans into quotas.

Let us commit ourselves to continue relentlessly to remove the last vestiges of discrimination in America.

But the way to end discrimination against some is not to begin discrimination against others.

Dividing Americans into quotas is totally alien to the American tradition.

Americans don't want to be part of a quota. They want to be part of America — as proud, self-respecting individual citizens.

This nation proudly calls itself the United States of America. Let us reject any philosophy which would make us the divided people of America.

In that spirit, I address you, my fellow Americans, tonight not as a partisan of party, which would automatically divide us, but as a partisan of principles which can unite us.

Great Principles

Six weeks ago our opponents in their convention rejected many of the great principles of the Democratic Party. To those millions who have been driven out of your home in the Democratic Party we say — come home — not to another party but to the great principles of the Democratic Party. To those millions who have been driven out of your home in the Democratic Party we say — come home — not to another party but to the great principles we Americans believe in together.

I ask you to join us, not in a coalition held together only by a desire to gain power. I ask you to join us as members of a new American majority bound together by our common ideals.

I ask everyone listening to me tonight — Democrats, Republicans and independents, to join our new majority — not on the basis of the party label you wear on your lapel but what you believe in your hearts.

In asking for your support I shall not dwell on the record of our administration which has been praised, perhaps too generously, by other speakers at this convention.

We have made great progress in the past four years.

It can truly be said that we have changed America and America has helped to change the world. As a result of what we have done America is a better place in which to live than was the case four years ago.

We can be proud of this record but we can never be satisfied. A record is not something to stand on but something to build upon.

I do not ask you to join our new majority because of what we have done in the past. I ask your support of the principles I believe should determine our future.

Choice in Election

The choice in this election is not between radical change and no change. The choice is between change that works and change that won't work.

I begin with an article of faith.

It has become fashionable in recent years to point up what is wrong with our American system. The critics contend it is so unfair, so corrupt, so unjust that we should tear it down and substitute a new system in its place.

I totally disagree. I believe in the American system.

I have traveled to 80 countries in the past 25 years. I have seen Communist systems, Socialist systems and systems half free and half Socialist.

Every time I return home I realize how fortunate we are to live in America.

This is a great and good country.

We have more freedom, more opportunity and more prosperity than any people in the world.

We have the highest rate of growth of any industrial nation.

Americans have more jobs at higher wages than any country in the world.

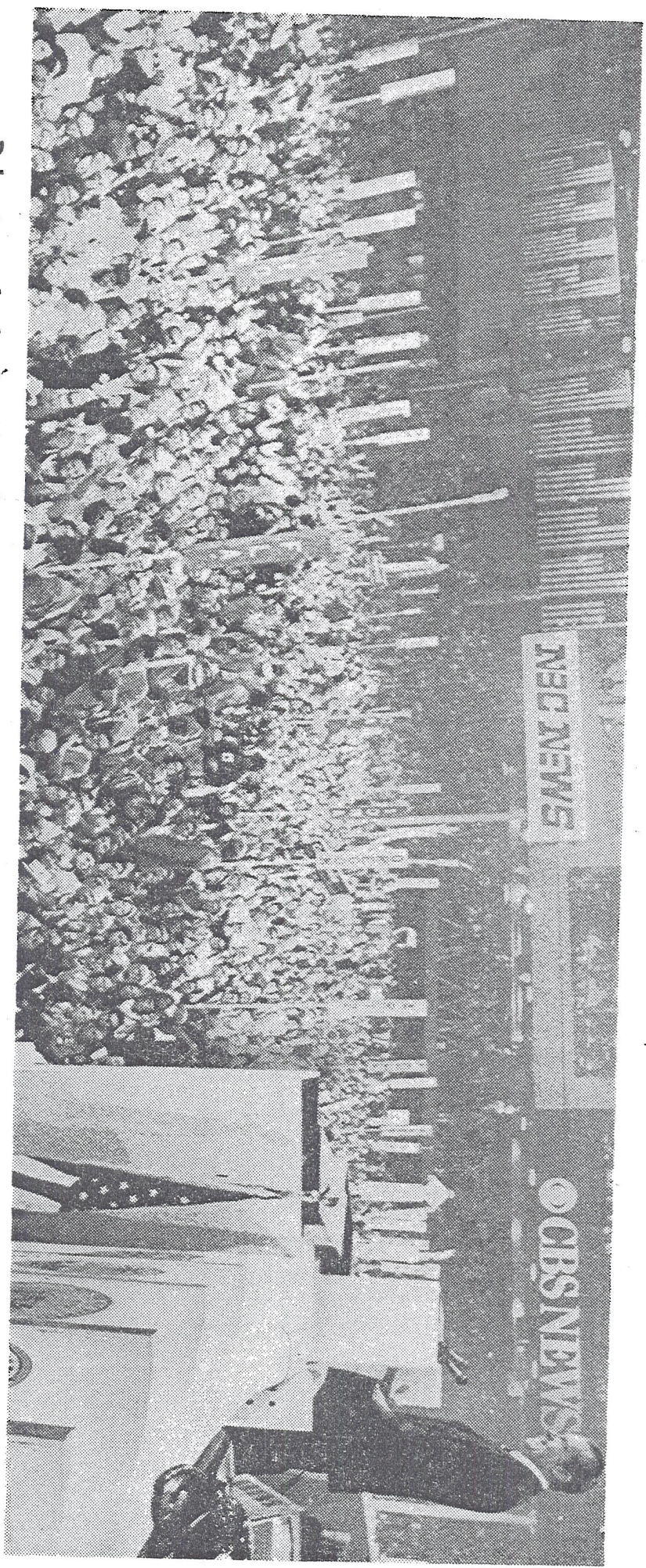
Our rate of inflation is the lowest of any industrial nation.

Farm Productivity

The incomparable productivity of our farmers has made it possible for us to launch a winning war against hunger in the United States and makes us the best-fed people in the world with the lowest percentage of the family budget going to food of any country in the world.

People on welfare in the United States would be rich in

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Delegates applaud as President Nixon addresses the closing session of the convention and accepts his party's nomination

—UPI Photo

most of the nations of the world today.

Our system has its problems.

Our Administration has provided the biggest tax cut in history, but taxes are still too high.

That is why one of the goals of our next administration is to reduce the property tax which is such an unfair and heavy burden for the poor, the elderly, the wage earner, the farmer and those on fixed incomes.

We have cut inflation in half but we must cut it further so that we can continue to expand on the greatest achievement of our new economic policy — for the first time in five years wage increases are not being eaten up by price increases.

As a result of the millions of new jobs created by our new economic policies, unemployment today is less than the average for the peacetime years of the 1960s. But we must continue the unparalleled increase in new jobs so that we can achieve a goal of our new prosperity — a job for every American who wants to work, without war and without inflation.

The New Road

The way to reach this goal is to stay on the new road we have chartered for moving America forward and not to take a sharp detour to the left which would lead to a dead end for the hopes of the American people for a better life.

This points up one of the clearest choices of this campaign. Our opponents believe in a different philosophy.

Theirs is the politics of paternalism where master planners in Washington make decisions for people.

Ours is the politics of people — where people make decisions for themselves.

Their proposal to pay \$1000 to every person in America insulted the intelligence of the American voters.

You know that every politician's promise has a price — the American taxpayer pays the bill.

The American people are not going to be taken in by a scheme where government gives money with one hand and takes it away with the other.

Their platform promises everything to everybody but at a net increase of \$144 billion in the budget which would mean a 50 percent tax increase for the taxpayers of America.

Spending Programs

I oppose any new spending programs which would add to the tax burden of American wage earners.

They have proposed legislation which would add 82 million people to the welfare rolls.

I say that instead of providing incentives for more millions to go on welfare, we need a program which will provide incentives for people to get off welfare and go to work.

It is wrong for anyone on welfare to receive more than someone who works.

Let us be generous to those who can't work without increasing the taxes of those who do work.

And while we are talking about welfare, let us quit treating our senior citizens in this country like welfare recipients. They have worked hard all of their lives to build America. They haven't asked for a handout. What they ask for is what they have earned — retirement in dignity and self respect.

When you add up the cost of all the programs our opponents have proposed, you can reach only one conclusion: they would destroy the system which has made America No. 1 in the world economically.

Today Americans pay one-third of their income in taxes. If their programs were enacted Americans would have to pay over one-half of their income in taxes. This means that American wage earners would be working more for the government than they would for themselves.

Peril to System

Once we cross this line, we cannot turn back because the incentive which makes the American economic system the most productive in the world would be destroyed.

Theirs is not a new approach. It has been tried before in countries abroad and those who have tried it have lived to regret it.

We cannot and will not let them do this to America.

Let us never destroy the principle that has made America the world's most prosperous nation — that a person should get what he works for and work for what he gets.

Let me illustrate the difference in our philosophies. Because of our American economic policies we have built a great building of economic wealth and might. It is by far the tallest building in the world and we are still adding to it. Because some of the windows are broken, they say tear it down and start again. We say, replace the windows and keep building.

Let me turn now to a second area where my beliefs are totally different from those of our opponents.

Four years ago crime was rising all over America at an unprecedented rate. Even our nation's capital was called the crime capital of the world. I pledged to stop the rise in crime.

In order to keep that pledge I promised in the election campaign that I would appoint judges to the federal courts, and particularly to the Supreme Court, who would recognize that the first civil right of every American is to be free from domestic violence.

Appointments

I have kept that promise. I am proud of the appointments I have made to the courts and particularly to the Supreme Court.

I pledge again tonight, as I did four years ago, that whenever I have the opportunity to make more appointments to the courts I shall continue to appoint judges who share my philosophy that we must strengthen the peace forces against the criminal forces in America.

We have launched an all-out offensive against the forces of crime, narcotics and permissiveness in America.

I want the peace officers across America to know that they have the total backing of their President in their fight against crime.

As we move toward peace abroad I ask you, my fellow Americans, to support our programs to keep the peace at home.

I turn now to an issue of overriding importance, not only in this election but for generations to come — the progress we have made in building a structure of peace in the world.

Peace is too important for partisanship. There have been five presidents in my voting lifetime — Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

They had differences on some issues.

But they were united in their belief that where the security of America and the peace of the world are involved, we are not Republicans, we are not Democrats. We are Americans.

Strength Essential

They were united in their total opposition to isolation for America and in their belief that the interests of the United States and the interests of world peace require that America be strong enough and intelligent enough to assume the responsibilities of leadership in the world community.

They were united in their conviction that the United States should have a defense second to none in the world.

They were all men who hated war and who were dedicated to peace.

But not one of these five men and no president in our history believed that America should ask an enemy for peace on terms that would betray our allies and destroy respect for the United States and the world.

As your president I shall always uphold that proud bipartisan tradition.

Standing in this convention hall four years ago, I pledged to seek an honorable end to the war in Vietnam. We have made great progress toward that goal. We have brought over half a million men home from Vietnam and more will be coming home. We have ended America's ground combat role. No draftees are being sent to Vietnam. We have reduced our casualties by 98 percent.

We have gone the extra mile — in fact tens of thousands of miles — to seek peace on the negotiating front. We have offered a cease-fire, a total withdrawal of all American forces, an exchange of all prisoners of war; internationally supervised free elections with participation by the Communists both in the elections and in their supervision.

Three Things

There are three things we have not and will not do: We will never abandon our prisoners of war.

We will not join our enemies in imposing a Communist government on our allies — the 17 million people of South Vietnam.

We will not stain the honor of the United States.

I realize that many wonder why we insist on an honorable peace in Vietnam. From a political standpoint they suggest that since I was not in office when over a half million American men were sent to Vietnam I should end the war by agreeing to impose a Communist government on the people of South Vietnam and blame the catastrophe on my predecessors.

This might be good politics. But it would be disastrous to the cause of peace in the world. If at this time we betray our allies it will discourage our friends around the world, and encourage our enemies to engage in aggression.

In danger areas like the Middle East, small nations that rely on the friendship and support of the United States would be in deadly jeopardy.

To our friends and allies in Europe, Asia, the Mideast and Latin America, I say that America will continue its great bipartisan tradition — to stand by our friends and never to desert them.

In discussing Vietnam, I have noted that in this election year there has been a great deal of talk about providing amnesty for those few hundred Americans who chose to desert their country rather than to serve it in Vietnam.

I say it is time to put the emphasis where it really belongs. The real heroes are the 2½ million young Americans who did their duty and chose to serve their country in Vietnam rather than desert it.

Let us give those who have served America in the past and who serve in our armed forces today the honor and respect they have so richly earned.

Cherished Right

Finally, let one thing be clearly understood in this election campaign. The American people will not tolerate any attempt by our enemies to interfere with the cherished right of the American voters to make their own decisions as to what is best for America without intervention by foreign powers.

It is understandable that Vietnam has been a major concern in the field of foreign policy.

But we have not allowed the war in Vietnam to paralyze our capacity to initiate historic new policies to construct a lasting and just peace in the world.

When the history of this period is written it will be recorded that our most significant contributions to peace resulted from our trips to Peking and to Moscow.

The dialogue that we have begun with the People's Republic of China has reduced the danger of war and has increased the prospects for peaceful cooperation between our two great peoples.

Within the short space of four years in our relations with the Soviet Union we have moved from confrontation to negotiation to cooperation in the interests of peace.

We have taken the first step in limiting the nuclear arms race.

We have laid the foundation for further limitations of nuclear weapons and eventually of reducing our arsenals of nuclear arms.

We can thereby not only reduce the enormous cost of armaments for both our countries but increase the chances for peace.

Great Initiatives

More than on any other single issue, I ask you, my fellow Americans, to give us the opportunity to continue these great initiatives which can contribute so much to the peace of the world.

It can truly be said that as a result of our initiatives

the danger of war is less. The chances for peace are greater. But we cannot be complacent.

Our opponents have proposed massive cuts in our defense budget which would have the inevitable effect of making the United States the second strongest nation in the world.

For the United States unilaterally to reduce its strength with the naive hope that other nations would do likewise would increase the danger of war in the world.

This would completely remove any incentive for other nations to agree to a mutual limitation or reduction of armaments.

The promising initiatives we have undertaken to limit arms would be destroyed.

The security of the United States and all of the nations in the world that rely upon us would be dangerously threatened.

Defense Spending

We have cut defense spending in our administration so that it now takes the lowest percentage of our national product in 20 years.

We should not spend more on defense than we need. But we should never spend less than we need.

Spending what we need will cost us money. Spending less than we need could cost us our lives.

Let us take risks for peace but let us never risk the security of the United States of America.

I pledge to you that while we shall continue to seek peace and the mutual reduction of arms, the United States will always have a defense second to none in the world.

There are those who believe we can entrust the security of America to the good will of our adversaries.

Those who hold this view do not know the real world. We can negotiate limitation of arms and we have done so. We can make agreements to reduce the danger of war and we have done so.

But one unchangeable rule of international diplomacy is that in negotiations between great powers — you can only get something if you have something to give in return.

Let us always be sure that when the President of the United States goes to the conference table he never has to negotiate from weakness.

There is no such thing as a retreat to peace.

My fellow Americans, we stand on the threshold of one of the most exciting and challenging eras in the history of relations between nations.

We have the opportunity in our time to be the peace-makers of the world, because the world trusts and respects us, and because the world knows that we will use our power only to defend freedom, never to destroy it; only to keep the peace, never to break it.

Guardian of Peace

A strong America is not the enemy of peace. It is the guardian of peace.

The initiatives that we have begun can result in reducing the burdens of arms as well as the danger of war which hangs over the world today.

Even more important, it means that the enormous creative energies of the American people, the Russian people, the Chinese people and other people in the world can be turned away from preparing for war and toward the works of peace.

In America, it will mean that we can undertake programs for progress at home that will be just as exciting as the great initiatives we have undertaken in these past four years in building peace abroad.

The peace dividend has too often been described solely in monetary terms — how much money we could take out of the arms budget and apply to our domestic needs. By far the biggest dividend is that achieving our goal of a true and lasting peace, would reflect the deepest hopes and ideals of the American people.

Speaking on behalf of all the American people, I was proud to be able to say in my television address to the Russian people in May: "We covet no one else's territory. We seek no dominion over any other people. We seek peace not only for ourselves but for all the peoples in the world."

This dedication to idealism runs through America's history.

During the tragic war between the states, Abraham Lincoln was asked whether God was on our side. He replied:

"My concern is not whether God is on our side, but whether we are on God's side."

May that always be our prayer for America.

My fellow Americans, we hold our future and the future of peace in the world in our hands.

Let us reject the policies of those who whine and whimper about our frustrations and call on us to turn inward.

Let us not turn away from greatness.

The chance America now has to lead the way to a lasting peace in the world may never come again.

Great Challenge

With faith in God, faith in ourselves and faith in America, let us have the vision and the courage to seize the moment and meet the challenge before it slips away.

On your television screen last night you saw the cemetery in Leningrad I visited on my trip to the Soviet Union — where 300,000 people who died in the siege of that city in World War II are buried in mass graves.

At the cemetery I saw the picture of a 12 year old girl. She was a beautiful child. Her name was Tanya. I read her diary. It tells the terrible story of war. In the simple words of a child, she wrote of the deaths of the members of her family. Zhenya in December. Grannie in January. Then Yeka. Then Uncle Vasya. Then Mama in May. And finally — these were the last words in her diary: "All are dead. Only Tanya is left."

Let us think of Tanya and of the other Tanyas, and their brothers and sisters everywhere in Russia, in China, in America, as we proudly meet our responsibilities for leadership in the world in a way worthy of a great people.

I ask you, my fellow Americans, to join our new majority not just in the cause of winning an election but in working together to achieve a goal that has been the dream of mankind since the beginning of civilization. Let us build a peace which our children and all the children of the world can enjoy for generations to come.