

NATION WILL VOTE TODAY; NIXON FAVORED TO DEFEAT M'GOVERN BY WIDE MARGIN

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President Rebutts Charge; Senator Voices Confidence

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Nixon Defends Peace Bid

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.
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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Nov. 6—President Nixon spent the last few moments of his re-election campaign tonight defending himself against Senator George McGovern's charge that he had deceived the American people about the prospects for a settlement in Vietnam.

In a five-minute nationwide television statement, Mr. Nixon said he had achieved a "breakthrough" in the negotiations and that both Hanoi and the United States had agreed on a cease-fire, a return of all prisoners of war and a political settlement under which "the people of South Vietnam will determine their own future."

Mr. Nixon said there remained "some details that we are insisting still be worked out" because he wished to be certain "that this will not be a temporary peace but a peace that will last."

But he said he was "completely confident" that he would soon reach an agreement "which will end the war in Vietnam."

"You can help achieve that

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goal," he told his audience. "By your votes, you can send a message to those with whom we are negotiating and to the leaders of the world that you back the President of the United States as he insists that we seek peace with honor and never peace with surrender."

Mr. Nixon's strategists have insisted to newsmen that neither they nor the President are worried about Mr. McGovern's last minute charges. But the President's decision to devote the bulk of his final statement tonight to the peace issue suggested that he was eager, if only as a precaution, to make sure that Mr. McGovern's complaint did not deprive him of the overwhelming triumph he seeks and expects tomorrow.

Mr. Nixon did not talk about any other issues in any detail tonight, asserting his belief that

the choices had already been vividly displayed to the voters.

Quoting a statement that he himself made more than two months ago, he said that "this is the clearest choice that Americans have probably had for President in this century."

Tonight's speech was Mr. Nixon's second television address of the campaign. He has given 13 radio addresses on specific issues and on general themes that he has sought to emphasize since the Republican convention in August.

His traveling schedule has been almost inconsequential compared to Mr. McGovern's. Since the convention, Mr. Nixon has visited 16 states including New York several times; California three times; Illinois, Michigan and Pennsylvania twice each, and Texas, Hawaii, Maryland, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Georgia, West Virginia and Kentucky.

This unusually sparse schedule was the result of the judgment of Mr. Nixon's political advisers that he could best run for re-election by avoiding a direct test of personalities with his opponent and by emphasizing at every turn his Presidential role.

Mr. Nixon did not depart from that role in the final moments of the campaign. Today, his press secretary,

Ronald L. Ziegler, said the President spent full time in staff meetings with Henry A. Kissinger, his national security adviser, and John D. Ehrlichman, his chief adviser on domestic affairs.

Mr. Nixon's mood was described by his press spokesman as "calm and positive." Mr. Ziegler said that the President felt that the issues had been clearly defined during the campaign and that the public "understood the differences between his views and the opposition's."

Mr. Ziegler and Mr. Nixon have only a day to go before they achieve the rare and perhaps unprecedented feat of conducting an entire campaign without mentioning the name of the President's opponent.

The President and Mrs. Nixon plan to cast their ballots early tomorrow morning at an elementary school two blocks from the Presidential compound in San Clemente. He will then board Air Force One and return to Washington, where he will watch the election returns at the White House.