

THE STATES-ITEM

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The States-Item prints the news impartially. It supports what it believes to be right. It opposes what it believes to be wrong, without regard to party politics.

PAGE EIGHT New Orleans, La., Monday, January 22, 1973

Nixon's address

President Nixon's second inaugural address will not stand as a monument to clarity and inspiration. It hardly could be called a rallying cry for national unity. And it gave no indication that Mr. Nixon intends to hold out the olive branch to his critics among the people and in Congress.

In short, the President stuck pretty much to his hard line in both foreign and domestic affairs. A common theme in both spheres was that nations will have to take care of themselves and not depend too much on the U.S. government, and so will American citizens.

Mr. Nixon seemed to be saying that the U.S. government has learned the limits of its power both at home and abroad. "Abroad and at home, the key to those new policies lies in the placing and the division of responsibility. We have lived too long with the consequences of attempting to gather all power and responsibility to Washington," said the President.

The manner in which Mr. Nixon has gathered power in the White House hardly is consistent with a theme of sharing responsibilities.

For individual Americans, the President had this advice: "In our own lives, let each of us ask — not just what will government do for me, but what can I do for myself? In the challenges we face together, let

each of us ask — not just how can government help, but how can I help." It was a slight variation on the theme espoused by President John F. Kennedy in his first inaugural address.

Mr. Nixon expressed characteristic disdain for those who question the rightness of their government's policies. In a sweeping overstatement, the President declared that "our children have been taught to be ashamed of their country, ashamed of their parents, ashamed of America's record at home and of its role in the world. At every turn, we have been beset by those who find everything wrong with America and very little right with it. But I am confident that theirs will not be the judgment of history on these remarkable times in which we are privileged to live."

No doubt some children have learned to be ashamed of some of the things their country has done in Vietnam and some aspects of the Nixon Administration's record on domestic affairs, including the manipulation of the busing issue for political purposes.

The most encouraging things in Mr. Nixon's address were his suggestions that America's "longest and most difficult war" is coming to an end and that Washington has learned the limitations of its power.