

Nixon's Speech: A Clue to Future Path

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WASHINGTON, March 30— President Nixon's address to the nation last night on foreign and domestic matters was being viewed today as an indicator of both his mood and the manner in which he will lead the country in the future.

Because the speech was timed to coincide with the end of United States military involvement in Vietnam, there had been some speculation that the President would be expansive and mellow.

Instead, he attacked his old enemies, the war critics, as people who "advocated peace at any price, even if the price would have been defeat and humiliation for the United States."

He spoke out once again against amnesty, saying "let us not dishonor those who served their country by granting amnesty to those who deserted America."

He stepped up his fight with Congress over control of the public purse by inviting all who were listening to write to their Senators and Representatives in support of his position. "If I do not stop the spending increases which Congress sends to my desk, you will have to pay the bill," Mr. Nixon said, not mentioning that much of the fight is over priorities, not a spending ceiling.

He appealed for public support against cuts in the military budget, saying that a reduction "increases the danger of war" and could make the United States "the second strongest nation in the world."

In almost every area, Mr. Nixon drew the line and pro-

claimed the battle. It was the same kind of speech that he was delivering back in 1968 when he was fighting a long record of defeats to become President, setting up his enemies and slashing them down.

With one term and a landslide victory for re-election behind him and no constitutional basis for seeking re-election, the 60-year-old President had been expected by some observers to become less partisan and combative, to move toward a more conciliatory position of leadership.

The address last night, which was tougher in tone than most, reaffirmed other evidence that Mr. Nixon was not likely to alter his style or approach to leading the country in the almost four years remaining in his second term.

Some students of Mr. Nixon do not find this surprising. His writings and statements are filled with a Spartan view of life as a battle and with a relish for crises. Further, he is a highly active President who views Presidential leadership as one that should "articulate the nation's values, define its goals and marshal its will."

Some recent circumstances are said to have heightened the President's mood for combativeness. There is a deep feeling in the White House that the President's accomplishments in foreign and domestic affairs have been widely underrated, particularly among liberals and intellectuals, as a result of partisan pique or dislike for Mr. Nixon.

This is particularly true regarding the bombing in December of Hanoi and Haiphong, which was much condemned but which people in the White House believe brought about the Paris agreement of Jan. 27.

President Nixon made note of this last night.

"Perhaps the hardest decision I have made as President," he said, was on Dec. 18 "when our hopes for peace were so high and when the North Vietnamese stone-walled us at the conference table." It was then he "found it necessary to order more air strikes on military targets in North Vietnam to break the deadlock."

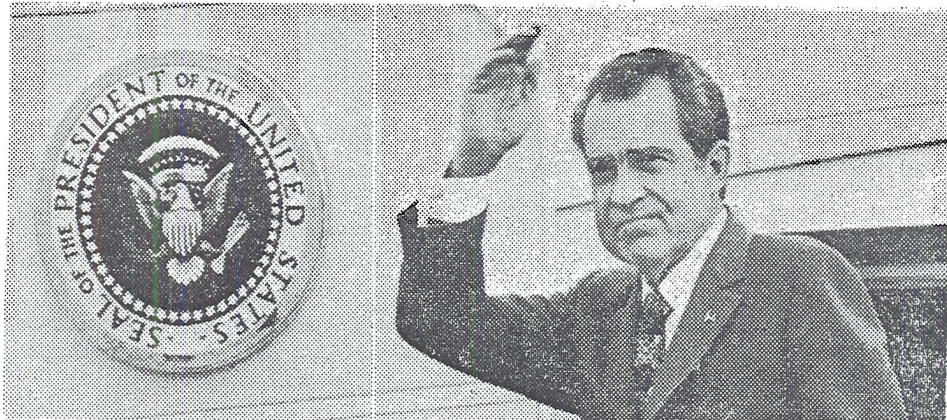
That the war critics have not granted the President the credit that he and his assistants think is due continues to be a sore point at the White House. This was reflected in the President's strong statements last night against the war critics and his lavish praise of the support that the prisoners of war had given him.

The President, White House aides said, has not forgotten who supported him in his last December decision, and who opposed him, and this extends to foreign officials as well as to those at home.

Another reason for the campaign style of Mr. Nixon's speech last night and for other statements and actions that he has taken in his second term, according to some Administration supporters, is his administration will make such a strong impact on the Government and on the nation that it will leave a legacy for future administrations.

His admonitions against the country's becoming "weak, soft and self-indulgent," words he used last night, are part of efforts in this regard.

To carry out his plan, said a Nixon aide, he is conducting another campaign just as he has been doing all of his life in and out of office, in victory and in defeat.



Associated Press

President Nixon boarding his plane yesterday at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., for flight to San Clemente, Calif. He is expected to attend a dinner tonight in Beverly Hills that is being planned by Hollywood celebrities to honor John Ford.