

Nixon, in TV Interview, Attributes Youth Unrest

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

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WASHINGTON, March 15—President Nixon believes that the "fundamental cause" of unrest among American youth is not the war, poverty or prejudice, but "a sense of insecurity that comes from the old values being torn away."

Mr. Nixon attributed the ferment of youths "at loose ends" to a weakening of religious and family ties and a less demanding way of life. His comments came during a two-hour interview, taped Thursday in the White House and telecast this morning on the National Broadcasting Company's "Today" show.

The President told Barbara Walters, the interviewer, that he understood the frustrations of young people and the feeling of failure among many of their parents, but he said solutions would not come out of angry demonstrations.

'What Does It Prove?'

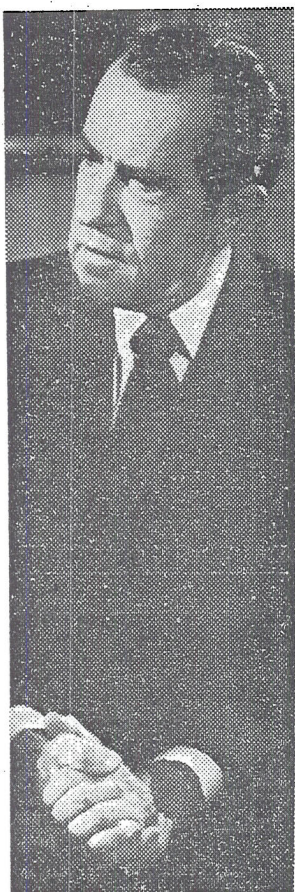
"What does it prove to shout a slogan?" asked the President. "What does it prove when you shout just the same thing over and over again? What does it prove unless you do something about it, unless you do something in terms of working with the system to change it?"

Adults, he said, must persuade young people that "this is a good time to be alive and not a bad time to be alive, and if you had to choose a place to live, this is the best country in the world in which to live."

That may sound "like straight jingoism, but it just happens to be true," he added.

While the President was concerned about the country's good image, he insisted he was not similarly troubled about his own.

Asked by Miss Walters if he was worried that the public regarded him "as rather a stuffy man," Mr. Nixon spent four minutes assuring her and the viewing audience that he was not like athletes "who become



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President Nixon in interview televised yesterday.

so concerned about what is written about them and what is said about them that they don't play the game well."

The television appearance

was Mr. Nixon's fourth public interview in a month. The interviews came after a period in which his standing in public opinion polls declined and after the White House reportedly became concerned that the electorate was not getting a clear image of the President.

But Mr. Nixon said in the interview that he had no image-making in mind.

He told Miss Walters his feelings were "very, very strong" that it did not become a President to be "constantly preening in front of a mirror, wondering whether or not he is getting across as this kind of individual or that."

He joked about his profile's providing an easy target for political cartoonists. He wondered aloud whether Presidents Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Wilson, and Franklin Roosevelt would have made less of an imprint had they been concerned about their publicity.

And the pictured himself as having fended off "public relations experts" who, he said, were "constantly riding me" to change his image.

'Good Job' Pledged

"I am not going to change my image," Mr. Nixon said. "I am just going to do a good job for this country." *

All the same, Mr. Nixon, who rarely granted any interviews during his first two years in office, suddenly appeared to be eager to provide the public with direct and indirect glimpses of his views and personality.

Last month he met with

Peregrine. Worsthorne, a British journalist, and later sent Mr. Worsthorne a memorandum explaining the attitude of self-sufficiency "rooted in my family background."

In an interview last week with C. L. Sulzberger of The New York Times, Mr. Nixon talked of his Quaker background and his pacifism, noting that he found it hard to award posthumous Medals of Honor.

In a one-hour meeting last Thursday with nine women writers and in the television interview with Miss Walters, the president spoke of his reli-

to Loss of 'the Old Values'

ance on his wife, Pat, and the importance of the family unit in society.

Miss Walters was preparing to take a vacation last week when the White House invited her to interview the President.

The only stipulation Mr. Nixon made following her meeting with him was that the interview be presented in its entirety.

Perhaps, the President said in the interview, the parents of troubled youngsters are not failures.

"Maybe we just live in a time," he said, when problems

seem overwhelming and young people do not get the education in high school or college to "prepare them for the very fact that life isn't all a bed of roses, that nations are not perfect, that leaders are not perfect."

Drug abuse is a symptom of the problem, not a cause, the President said. He made it clear that he felt marijuana use should not be legalized because "it is only a halfway house to something worse."

But the President said that the penalties for using marijuana should be less severe than those for using harder drugs.