

# President 9/7/71 Stresses Job Ethic

## Work Devotion Is Called Key To Prosperity

By Frank C. Porter  
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon called on Americans yesterday to dedicate themselves to "a new prosperity without war and without inflation" and said the key to this goal is the "work ethic" and rising productivity.

"Let the detractors of America and the doubters of the American spirit take note," he said. "America's competitive spirit, the work ethic of this people is alive and well on Labor Day, 1971."

In his 15-minute Labor Day radio address, Mr. Nixon mentioned his New Economic Policy — and hailed the "overwhelming response" of Americans to its challenge—but dealt with none of its specifics.

He also made no specific mention of organized labor or its contributions to American life, despite earlier expectations that he would use the occasion to attempt to conciliate labor, the major critic of his new economic policy.

Mr. Nixon did allude, however, to "criticisms by special interest groups"—an oblique reference believed to include AFL-CIO President George Meany and other labor leaders.

For his part, Meany ripped the President's program from stem to stern in his own Labor Day address, broadcast over NBC last night.

Meany called it "a form of socialism for big business... a giant raid on the federal treasury... the same kind of trickle down economic program that has been discredited so often before."

All this was in vivid contrast to a year ago, when President Nixon and Meany were offering warm and friendly toasts to each other at a White House dinner for labor leaders.

Meany's criticism was echoed, in one way or another, by labor leaders across the country and by most of the leading contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination in holiday speeches.

Speaking in calm and measured tones, Mr. Nixon broadcast his message from the paneled den of a cabin normally reserved for presidential guests at Camp David at Thurmont, Md. Mrs. Nixon and daughters Tricia and Julie together with their husbands listened in the family quarters at nearby Aspen lodge.

In the only significant departure from his prepared text, Mr. Nixon interpolated a reference to his father.

"I read a report recently about some on welfare in one of our cities who objected to taking jobs that they considered menial," he said.

See PRESIDENT, A5, Col. 5

### PRESIDENT, From A1

"As I read that report, I thought of my own father. During the years that I was growing up, he worked as a streetcar motorman, oil field workers; he worked as a farmer; he worked also in a filling station.

"Let us recognized once and for all—no job is menial in America if it leads to self-reliance, self-respect and individual dignity."

This has been a recurrent theme in Mr. Nixon's speeches. At one time he made a reference to his mother emptying bed pans as he argued the dignity of work that others consider menial.

The President said "the most heartening reaction" to his new economic policy was "the surge of national confidence, the reaffirmation of our competitive spirit, the willingness to make a personal sacrifice in pursuit of worthy goals by the man in the street, the worker on the job, the homemaker trying to balance the family budget."

He then quoted from a letter he said was from a state employee in Texas, whose wife is a schoolteacher—a letter Mr. Nixon said was typical of thousands received by the White House:

"We were both due for salary increases in September... but we will survive. If it were necessary to cut our income in half, I still know of no other country I would choose to call my own. I've heard the young people using a phrase that might fit: Right on."

A White House aide here in Washington said the letter was signed by Paul H. Allen of Longview, Tex.

The President said "the

## Stress Ethic'

work ethic" — another name for "the competitive spirit" — "holds that labor is good in itself; that a man or woman at work not only makes a contribution to his fellow man, but becomes a better person by virtue of the act of working."

The work ethic, Mr. Nixon continued, enabled a poor nation to become "the most powerful and respected leader of the free world today."

But recently the work ethic has come under attack, he said. "We see some members of disadvantaged groups being told to take the welfare road rather than the road of hard work, self-reliance and self-respect."

The President said rising productivity — the increase in physical output per man per hour — is needed not only to strengthen the national economy but to give the individual worker "a real increase in his wages, not just a pay raise eaten away by inflation."

He said there are four elements of productivity increase: investment in new technology, job training, good management and high employee motivation. "Taken together, they raise the amount each worker actually produces."

Meany said the President has proposed "a radical redistribution of the nation's wealth in favor of the rich." The 10 per cent investment tax credit, tax deferral on profits of export subsidiaries and other concessions to industry "would give big business \$70 billion over the next 10 years" at the expense of American taxpayers, he said.

At Chippewa Lake, outside Cleveland, Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.), the only announced candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, adopted the Meany criticism that the President's program is "a Robin Hood in reverse—depriving the poor to fatten the rich."

He told a United Auto Workers picnic that he is prepared to introduce legislation for a wage-price board "along the lines proposed by your national president, Leonard Woodcock, and AFL-CIO President George Meany." He also called for an excess profits tax and an immediate end to the Vietnam War.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) in urging a new "Fair Deal" program before a United Rubber Workers meeting in Barberton, Ohio, said

7 SEP 71

## Trade Review Set for Today

The President will meet today with his cabinet Council on International Economic Policy to review foreign trade in advance of high-level talks Thursday and Friday with visiting Japanese ministers.

Among those to take part in the meeting are George Shultz, director of the Office of Management and Budget, and David M. Kennedy, former Treasury Secretary, who now is a roving economic ambassador.

"What is needed is not trickle-down, but percolate up." The program would include a wage-price-profits stabilization board with broad public participation, expanded job producing programs, regional productivity councils, postponement of Social Security payroll tax increases, early passage of welfare reform, aid to cities and states and an investment tax credit.

In Los Angeles, Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) proposed before the Catholic Labor Institute that Mr. Nixon's plan for an investment tax credit be replaced with a \$7 billion consumer tax credit. Under it, anyone filing a tax return could subtract up to \$100 from the tax otherwise owed toward purchase of major consumer durables, except autos.

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) disputed Mr. Nixon's contention that the free enterprise system is healthy and argued it's in "deep trouble" because of the growing profits gap between large and small companies. He cited a government report showing that profits of firms with assets exceeding \$1 billion rose 19 per cent in the first three months of this year while those with assets of less than \$1 million suffered a 40 per cent drop.

Sen. Fred R. Harris (D-Okla.) said he applauds the President's call for greater competitive spirit. To demonstrate this commitment, said Harris, the President should launch a vigorous drive to enforce anti-trust laws against big corporations.

In Paris, Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) predicted a "turn-around period" of about a year for the President's new Economic Policy but wouldn't make a firm forecast as to "when the 10 per cent import tax might be lifted."