Nixon at 60: Quiet and Contemplative

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Special to The New York Times

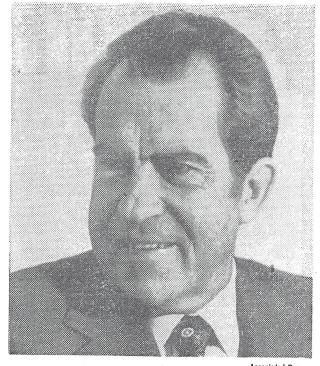
WASHINGTON, Jan. 9-'resident Nixon quietly oberved his 60th birthday today n continued silence and isolaion so far as his conduct of he Vietnam War is concerned.

But if aides who have been in close touch with the President and who usually reflect his views are any indication, Mr. Nixon feels deeply that he has been unfairly attacked, at home and abroad, for his Christmas season bombing of the population centers North Vietnam.

Aides who have been close to the President have been saying for the last few days, publicly and privately, that the November landslide election was a mandate for Mr. Nixon to conduct the war and negotiations as he feels he must without sniping by Congress and his critics.

This impression was rein-Press" that "the President had a with long November stays at thought was necessary to achieve "the proper kind of settlement."

director of communications for prised and fascinated by the the executive branch, said on degree of isolation that Mr. It was largely a monologue the National Broadcasting Com- Nixon has imposed on himself



President Nixon at the White House on his 60th birthday

forced by Mr. Nixon's meeting very clear mandate to proceed Camp David and continuing into on Friday with Congressional leaders in which he said he was remarked. This theme has been related to the New Year.

Yesterday, Mr. Nixon agreed determined to do what he peated over and over in the to an interview with Helen to White House.

of White House aides are re- of The Associated Press, with On Sunday, Herbert G. Klein, ported to be somewhat sur-questions restricted to the sub-

Thomas of United Press Inter-At the same time, a number national and Frances Lewine

pany's televised "Mee the since the election, beginning Conti ued on Page 18, Column 3

at advanced age but with no revelation of the President's inner feelings at this stage of White House family dinner, also communications director for the Washington area. Tonight, sources put out reports that Mr. Klein, who has served as communications director for the attended by a circle of close White House, would soon be

on Jan. 20.

President Woodrow Wilson began the precedent of delivering State of the Union Messages, required by the Constitution, in person to a joint session of Congress. Mr. Wilson's precedent has been broken twice, by President Eisenhower in 1966 because of illness and in 1961 when he was going out of office.

A Sign of Aging

Some who have visited the president regularly since his inauguration in 1969 say the only clear sign of aging is more gray in his black hair. In the present Vietnam crisis, they estenionly clear sign of aging is more gray in his black hair. In the present Vietnam crisis, they estection blues" to which Mr. Say that he seems somewhat more remote. Today, he held office hours as usual, receiving a large bouquet of "Forever Yours" red roses from his staff, "Sixty of them," Mr. Nixon has admitted in the past and which involves staff changes and dreary work after a victorious campaign.

Painful staff shuffles, part of the President's pledge to cut said as a group of visitors were shown into the Oval Office.

California.

Air of Suspense

Now, at 60, he has just been re-elected to a secton of term by one of the would have an expanded role in the Administration that would include overseeing some spects of public information offices in the executive departments and agencies.

What is going on in the President's mind has become a gray in his black hair. In the present Vietnam crisis, they election blues" to white House aide, who saill has ties there, said the past and which involves staff changes and dreary work after a victorious campaign.

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"Do you know how much red" device in the Administration that would include overseeing some as every being reactest Presidential landslides as exercion business and uncertainty heightened by the President's mind has become a gray in his black hair. In the past have an air of the White House.

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Continued From Page 1, Col. 5 roses cost?" He had asked his Mr. Ziegler, the press secrewith the President observing that de Gaulle, Churchill and Adenauer were strong leaders at advanced age but with no

his Presidency.

At a White House briefing today, Sarah McClendon, reporter for The El Paso Times and other papers, asked if Mr. Nixon could not go beyond "froth" and express at least "a birthday wish."

"It's his birthday," replied Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary. "He can express what he wants to."

The mood of Presidential isolation was further reinforced by Mr. Ziegler's disclosure that Mr. Nixon would not deliver his State of the Union Message to Congress in person. Mr. Ziegler had just been elected said it would be submitted in writing because it would closely follow his inauguration speech on Jan. 20.

White House family dinner, also attended by a circle of close of close attended by a circle of close attended by a circle of close white House, would soon be friends, including Charles G. Rebozo, the Florida developer, and Mr. Robert Abpland Mr. Klein's duties, as well as his own.

Mr. Ziegler denied that there had been any struggle for power between himself and Mr. Glein, that the office created for Mr. Klein four years ago would remain, the President whittier College who tried but never made the football that had asked Mr. Klein to stay on and that he, Mr. Ziegler, did not intend to take it over even when Mr. Klein left. Mr. Klein has acknowledged that he does not expect to stay for the full term.

Nevertheless, Mr. Ziegler acknowledged that the two communications offices were being attended by a circle of close with the same and the summing the president and at 50 he had recently been defeated in his race for Governor of California.

Air of Suspense

knowledged that the two com-munications offices were being