

# A Tense, Emotional Nixon

WASHINGTON — (UPI)

Tense and emotional, President Nixon showed a side of himself last night that many Americans had never seen before when he went on national television to accept ultimate responsibility for the Watergate scandal.

"Tonight I ask for your prayers to help me in everything I do," he said, his voice breaking and tears showing in his eyes. "God Bless America, and God bless each and every one of you."

The mood of the 24-minute speech was in sharp contrast to the tough, determined addresses, particularly those that dealt with the war in Indochina.

## Makeup

Nixon stumbled over his words several times during the speech last night and small drops of perspiration boke out on his chin and upper lip. He wore heavy makeup.

The television cameramen and technicians fell into a stunned silence in the White House Oval Room after Nixon



**'RESPONSIBILITY . . . BELONGS HERE, IN THIS OFFICE'**  
President Nixon promised a complete investigation of Watergate affair

—AP Photo

on finished the speech, which was peppered with personal references.

The television crews came forward to shake the President's hand before he left the Oval Room. "It wasn't easy," he told them, nearly sobbing.

After composing himself, Nixon then went to the White House press room and strode to the podium.

"We've had our differences in the past," he said, "and just continue to give me hell when you think I'm doing wrong."

The speech was reminiscent of Nixon's famous 1952 "Checkers Speech" in which he defended a secret slush fund from political admirers in the California business community during his campaign for vice president.

## 'Goals'

The President wrote his Watergate speech at his camp David, Md., mountain-top retreat where he had spent the weekend.

During the speech Nixon mentioned such personal details as the "goals" he had written on a piece of paper last Christmas Eve and a calendar he had prepared at the beginning of his second term which counted the days backwards.

Yesterday, he said, he noted he had 1361 more days left in office.