

On Iceland

Reykjavik, Iceland ^{30 MAY} Chatting with reporters on his flight from Washington Wednesday, President Nixon recalled a visit in Iceland with American servicemen in 1956 and said, "Those kids in that, if you pardon the expression, God-forsaken place, were glad to see somebody from home."

If Icelanders were offended by the remark, they were not showing it.

The official Icelandic government spokesman, Hannes Jonsson, observed: "Mr. Nixon's idea of God is very limited." But he said it with a smile.

Mr. Nixon's press secre-

tary, Ronald L. Ziegler, tried to smooth over any hard feelings in advance by saying Mr. Nixon was referring to the Keflavik base, 30 miles from the capital, and not to all of Iceland which he has never seen. ^{31 MAY}

And last night, ^{31 MAY} the President did it again.

In offering a toast at a dinner given by President Kristian Eldjarn of Iceland, Mr. Nixon lifted his glass and said:

"I offer a toast this evening which has never been offered before because such a meeting as this never occurred before and may never occur again.

"A toast to the president of Ireland."

United Press
