

Nixon Talks To Florida Graduates

Washington Post Service

Orlando, Fla.

Without ever mentioning the Watergate issue, President Nixon called upon the graduating class of Florida Technological University yesterday to join in "building the spirit of America" by "tackling issues of great enterprises."

Mr. Nixon hinted of a possible forthcoming change in the administration's economic policies, and he repeated a familiar 1972 campaign theme when he said that the United States must go to the international bargaining table "second to none" in military strength.

But he broke no new ground in a 27-minute speech to an audience described by a Nixon aide as a "solid, middle-America student body."

The President was content to restate themes from his speeches of the past year and a half.

Much of his speech was devoted to a recitation of first-term accomplishments in obtaining agreements with China and the Soviet Union, agreements the President said he hopes to convert into "a lasting structure of peace in the world."

He said several times that

Back Page Col. 4

the U.S. must not reduce the incentive for further negotiations either by unilateral disarmament or by turning inward and foregoing a role of world leadership.

"No nation can be an island, and a particularly the United States cannot bug out of its responsibilities to the world because we are a power for peace," Mr. Nixon said. "... The last few years have demonstrated, we have proved, that we deserve respect and that the world can have our confidence."

SPEECH

The President spoke to an audience of 750 graduating seniors, their parents and several thousand students at this seven year old "computer college" built on sandy scrub pine land east of Orlando.

Aides said it was convenient for the President to give the speech because Orlando is less than an hour's flight from Key Biscayne, where Mr. Nixon is spending the weekend.

The speech was his first before a campus audience since his commencement address at West Point two years ago and was only the second speech open to the public since Mr. Nixon's second term inauguration.

The President chose as his audience a student body where 90 per cent of the students work full time or part time, and where more than one third of the male students are military veterans.

COMMENT

"We are veterans; we have served in the armed services," Mr. Nixon told his audience. "So, I begin with why this is a good time to be alive and why it is a good time to be alive in America by pointing out how this class, the class of '73, has some enormous advantages that your predecessors have not had for many years."

The President said this is the first graduating class in 12 years that does not face service in Vietnam, the first class in 32 years that is not subject to a military draft and the first class in 21 years that can "look to the future with the thought" that the People's Republic of China is no longer isolated from the world.

ECONOMY

Mr. Nixon conceded that the United States has economic problems, but he said these are primarily the problems of rising demand in the world and could be solved by technological improvements causing improved production.

It was at this point that the President hinted he may act to restore at least some economic restraint to curb domestic inflation.

"Government of course

can act, and we shall act where we think it responsible to do so and where it will be effective to hold down the inflation," Mr. Nixon said.

But he added, "putting it

in a more positive way," that the increase of food and other prices is "not something to look upon as an enormous burden but as an opportunity."

RESPONSE.

The audience that Mr. Nixon faced here yesterday, in a county where he received 80 per cent of the

vote last November, was warm and friendly, interrupting his speech occasionally with applause.

A dozen persons protesting continued U.S. bombing in Cambodia said they were kept out of the area where the President was speaking.

However, another small group in the back of the audience hoisted a large banner throughout the President's speech. It said "Don't Believe"

Still another audience member handed the President a letter in

SEE ALSO PAGE 10



UPI Telephoto

Graduates of Florida Technological University shook hands with the President

NIXON AND GRADUATES