

NYTimes
President Cancels Speech;
Plans News Parley Tonight

OCT 25 1973

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24—President Nixon, in another sudden turn in the Watergate crisis, canceled his scheduled television address to the nation tonight and planned instead a news conference at 9 P.M. tomorrow.

Mr. Nixon's deputy press secretary, Gerald L. Warren, said that the change had been made because the President was preoccupied with the crisis in the Middle East. But Congressional sources suggested that he had taken the advice of Republican leaders who have been telling him he is more effective in the give and take

of a news conference than in "sitdown monologues written on the mountain at Camp David."

Mr. Nixon's news conference, his first since Oct. 4, is scheduled to be held in the East Room of the White House and televised nationally.

The White House announced yesterday that the President would go on national television and radio at 9 o'clock tonight to explain his role in the events of the last few days that included his abolishment of the office of the special Watergate

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prosecutor, the departure of the two top officials in the Justice Department and his sudden decision of yesterday to turn over Watergate tape recordings to United States District Judge John J. Sirica.

There were indications that Mr. Nixon and his staff were under considerable strain as a barrage of criticism of Mr. Nixon's role in the developments continued even after the President agreed to surrender the tapes in an effort to turn back opposition and moves for impeachment.

George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, said in a statement issued here:

"The events of the last several days prove the dangerous emotional instability of the President. We firmly believe there must be a completely independent investigation of the scandals in this Administration. Nothing that happened yesterday changes our opinion that the people's confidence in government has so destroyed that he should resign or be impeached."

Mr. Meany has been one of the harshest critics of Mr. Nixon, and the A.F.L.-C.I.O., meeting this week in Bal Harbour, Fla., called for impeachment. But never before had such a prominent national leader questioned President Nixon's emotional stability.

Mr. Warren, the press aide,

said that Mr. Meany's assertion was the most "incredible, inexcusable and irresponsible statement ever made by anyone who is in a position to have his comments and remarks carried in the national news media." Asked about the President's health, Mr. Warren said it was "excellent," a statement that has been repeated frequently during the months of the Watergate disclosures.

Mr. Nixon's assistants expressed the hope and belief yesterday that turning over the tapes would ease considerably the President's problems, but new difficulties were looming today.

New Prosecutor Urged

One was growing pressure from Congress that Mr. Nixon appoint a new special prosecutor to replace Archibald Cox, whom the President dismissed Saturday night because he had refused to abide by a Presidential order to refrain from seeking the tapes and other White House records.

Republican leaders in the Senate urged the President today to appoint a replacement to Mr. Cox. While there has been no direct word of how Mr. Nixon feels about such a proposal, his assistants have indicated the White House is against such a move.

Bryce N. Harlow, counselor to the President and one of Mr. Nixon's links to Congress, said this morning at a breakfast with reporters, "I don't know what the President will do. My own opinion is that this

[a special prosecutor] is desperately poor government."

He said the proposal carried "the subterranean notion that the Justice Department can't be trusted" to carry out a complete, impartial investigation.

Mr. Harlow, expressed the predominant White House view, said that misunderstanding and misinformation about the President's motives had led to the tumultuous events of last weekend.

"Mr. Cox forced out Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and his deputy, William D. Ruckelshaus," Mr. Harlow said. Since Mr. Nixon has decided to surrender the tapes, Mr. Harlow said, he believes that the move to start impeachment proceedings against the President will never be reported out of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Nixon has not appeared in public since the events of the weekend. He watched the Washington Redskins, his favorite football team, on television Sunday. He spent Monday night and last night at Camp David.

He has been meeting frequently with his staff, mostly Alexander M. Haig Jr., his chief of staff; Secretary of State Kissinger; Ronald L. Ziegler, his press secretary, and his lawyers. Several of his assistants said the surge of adverse reaction to Mr. Nixon's actions caught everyone at the White House by surprise, and the staff has been working feverishly since trying to repair the damage.

General Haig, who called the reaction a "firestorm," and Charles Alan Wright, the con-

stitutional lawyer who is acting as the President's special counsel in the tapes case, both looked tired and drawn yesterday during a news conference.

Mr. Nixon, departing and leaving the White House grounds by helicopter, was in earshot of automobile horns "honking for impeachment," part of the anti-Nixon demonstrations held along Pennsylvania Avenue.

While Anne L. Armstrong, counselor to the President, and other White House officials, were saying publicly that everything would be all right, some aides said privately that the recent trauma pointed up the depth of Mr. Nixon's problem of credibility.

General Haig and others expressed distress because the worst of motives had been attributed to Mr. Nixon—that he had maneuvered the entire episode to get rid of Mr. Cox. This possibility was denied.