



UPI Telephoto

President Nixon as he spoke in Washington. Seafarers Union president Paul Hall is at the right

Speech to Seafarers

Nixon Says Gas Crisis 'Temporary'

Washington

A confident, wise-cracking president Nixon yesterday assured the Seafarers International Union that the present shortage of gasoline and fuel supplies is "a temporary problem" that probably will come to an end within a year.

Mr. Nixon said that no one will suffer from driving slower or keeping his home cooler. The end result, he said, was that the United States will be completely free of dependence on foreign nations for energy and that "nobody can cut America's lifeline."

Mr. Nixon's speech, designed to drum up public support for the energy-saving measures he announced Sunday, was delivered before one of the trade union forums most friendly to him.

The President also compared himself to the captain at the helm, and told the 200 delegates he does not intend to "jump ship" because of the Watergate scandal.

Describing Watergate and other allegations against him as "troubled waters," Mr. Nixon said he often suffered from seasickness until about 15 years ago when he overcame it.

"However rough the seas are . . . I don't get seasick," he said. "However rough the seas are, it's the captain's job to bring the ship to port.

"And I can assure you, you don't have to worry about my getting seasick or jumping ship. I'm going to stay at the helm and we're going to bring it into port."

Seafarers international president Paul Hall introduced Mr. Nixon by reading from a 1972 endorsement statement which praised him for supporting the Merchant Marine and concluded: "we in the maritime industry here find — on the basis of performance — that we can believe in Richard Nixon."

Hall said he stood by the statement.

The announcement of Mr. Nixon's visit to the union convention here coincided with a Time magazine report that investigators for Watergate special prosecutor Leon Jaworski are investigating a \$100,000 contribution made by the union to the Nixon re-election committee.

Mr. Nixon was in an expansive and good-humored mood as he addressed the union delegates.

Referring to his own declaration of a 50-m.p.h. speed limit, Mr. Nixon said he hadn't driven a car since he became president because "the Secret Service doesn't trust my driving."

"I don't trust their driving, but that is all right,"

How Nixon Looks at Darkness

Washington

President Nixon said yesterday that not having ornamental lights at Christmas time "won't hurt anybody" but added "it's not as pretty."

He quipped to the Seafarers' International Union that coming home at night with the lights out "it might be dark and you could get in the wrong door.

"But who knows," he added, "there might be somebody interesting behind those doors."

United Press

the President continued. "In any event, they drive the car, I sit in the back seat, and I must admit that sometimes we have gone well over 50. In California, on the freeways . . . most people go 80."

Mr. Nixon said that the slower driving limit will cause no hardship but will simply mean that it takes "a little longer to get to work, a little longer to get to the ball

game, a little longer to get to church, maybe a little longer to make the trip to see your mother - in - law, maybe . . . you wouldn't mind taking a little longer."

Mr. Nixon assured the union delegates that the U.S. is not going to return to the World War II rationing days of "not enough gasoline, not enough heat, not enough of this, that and, the other thing.

" . . . we have a temporary problem, a problem that is going to exist for this year, perhaps somewhat longer — we trust not much longer, depending upon what happens in the international scene — and therefore, we have got to deal with that problem," the President said.

Mr. Nixon's speech was the first in what is expected to be a series of appeals before various forums in behalf of his energy policies.

Mr. Nixon was applauded frequently as he spoke in a crowded second-floor hotel room before signs that said "save America's fishing industry" and "a strong inland waterways system means a stronger America."

The President's loudest applause came when he called for a strong merchant marine so that the U.S. need be no longer "dependent on some other country."

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