

Nixon's Speech -- 'One Year of Watergate Is Enough'

His State of Union Talk --An Optimistic Pledge Of 'A Year of Progress'

Washington

President Nixon, speaking confidently of the next three years of his presidency, told Congress last night that he will never walk away from his job and declared that "we can and will make 1974 a year of unprecedented progress."

In a dramatic finale to a long State of the Union address, the President acknowledged that 1973 was "not an easy year for me or my family" and then asserted that "one year of Watergate is enough."

By way of calling for an early resolution of the issue, he said he has provided the special Watergate prosecutor all the material he needs "to prosecute the guilty and to clear the innocent."

The President promised, in a tone that appeared to be conciliatory, to cooperate with the House Judiciary Committee, which is considering impeachment charges.

But many Democrats interpreted his declaration that he would "do nothing that weakens the office of the President" as a challenge to congressional authority.

After promising to cooperate "in any way that I consider consistent with my responsibilities," Mr. Nixon carefully added:

"There is only one limitation. I will follow the precedent that has been followed by and defended by every president from George Washington to Lyndon B. Johnson, of never doing anything that weakens the office of the President of the United States or impairs the ability of the President of the future, to make the great decisions that are so essential to this nation and the world."

Despite the bitterness over the Watergate scandals, Congress gave the President an unexpectedly warm re-

press relief at our military extrication from Southeast Asia by 'washing our hands' of the whole affair." He said the U.S. will continue to supply military and economic aid to the nations of the area. The President also stated, in both his written and oral report, that the U.S. will "insist on full compliance" with the Paris cease-fire accord of last January, "including a full accounting of our men missing in Southeast Asia."

ception, interrupting his 45-minute speech with applause 33 times and twice gave him a standing ovation.

The assertion that "one year of Watergate is enough" brought an especially vigorous response from the joint session.

Mr. Nixon's first dramatic news in the speech came when he said that Arab leaders have personally assured him that they would meet promptly to discuss lifting the oil embargo.

If the embargo is lifted it will "ease" the energy crisis but will not end the energy

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shortage, the President said. However, he expressed the hope there would be no need for gasoline rationing.

Assailing prophets of despair, the President asserted that "there will be no recession" in the U.S. However, he conceded that there would be a slowing of the growth rate and a rise in unemployment.

He emphasized, however, that he would take whatever measures are needed, including deficit financing, to stimulate the economy should recession or serious unemployment threaten the economy.

He said that his budget, to be sent to Congress Monday, will provide for spending of \$304.4 billion in the next fiscal year, with a projected deficit of \$9.4 billion.

Mr. Nixon repeated his pledge not to ask for higher taxes.

As the President walked

into the House chamber he carried two bulky documents — copies for Speaker

of the House Carl Albert and Vice President Ford of a 50-page expanded State of the Union message in which he provided details of his ten-point program for 1974. He promised that if approved it would "break the back of the energy crisis," head off recession and strengthen the structure of peace.

In an obvious effort to assert the success of his presidency despite the damage of Watergate, Mr. Nixon began his address with a lengthy comparison of the state of the world and the state of the nation now with the way they were five years ago when he took office.

He said his address this year was the first in 12 years a president has made such a talk while the U.S. was at peace with all nations. He claimed progress in establishing better relations with the Soviet Union and China, in ending the draft, in bringing home prisoners of war, in lowering the crime rate, curbing drug abuse and in restoring peace to U.S. cities and campuses.

He called his new program an "agenda for truly significant progress."

In his written statement, Mr. Nixon's only Watergate reference was a rebuke to lawmakers for failure to establish a commission on campaign practices, which he had urged last May.

Since they have not acted, he said, he would send his own proposals for campaign reform to Congress.

He said he had ordered "an extensive cabinet-level review, covering the right of privacy and the government's "legitimate needs" for information, but he made no reference to criticisms of his administration for wiretapping.

In two passages in the written message and in similar vein in the spoken message, he emphasized his intention to remain in office. He once referred to "the remaining three years of this term" and another time declared that "the chief legacy" he hopes to leave "from the eight years of my presidency" is a sound structure of peace.

Mr. Nixon had spent almost a week of intensive effort alone at Camp David, with only one speechwriter — Raymond K. Price — at his side, hammering out the address he knew could help decide his fate in this critical year of his presidency.

He had received reports from around the country

that people were tired of Watergate, so he devoted the bulk of his address to detailing his accomplishments, his program for the future and to asserting that he is still the President and continues to stay at the helm despite the storms raging around him.

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"I have had one overriding aim," he said, "to establish a structure of peace in the world that can free future generations from the scourge of war."

"Others may have different priorities, this has been and will remain my first priority."

At the same time, the President also pledged a strong defense, declaring that he would recommend "a substantial increase" in the defense budget for fiscal 1975, which begins July 1.

He told members of Congress that their pay and the pay of other top government officials has not kept pace with other federal pay increases. He proposed a three-stage increase in exe-

cutive, legislative and judicial salaries, at the rate of 7½ per cent annually for each of the next three years.

The President said "The No. 1 legislative concern must be the energy crisis."

"Even with the full cooperation of most Americans . . . we still face real challenges — and genuine shortages — in the months and years immediately ahead . . . we must adjust to the fact that the age of unlimited supplies of cheap energy is ended."

The President said that a slowdown in economic growth in the first half of this year "is inevitable" because the recent high rate of growth has been "at an unsustainable rate."

Output is expected to rise "little if at all" in the early part of the year and unemployment "will rise somewhat and inflation will be high," he said.

"Our objective, however, is to turn this situation around so that later in the year output will be rising more rapidly, while unemployment will stop rising and will then decline, and the rate of inflation will slow."

The President broke no new ground in setting out explicit foreign policy objectives for 1974, but he repledged a continuing American responsibility in Vietnam.

In the written portion of his message, the President said, "we must guard against the tendency to ex-