

Transcript of Nixon's Statement and

Following is a transcript of President Nixon's remarks last night at the National Association of Broadcasters convention in Houston, questions submitted to him and his replies, as recorded by The New York Times, through the facilities of A.B.C. News:

OPENING STATEMENT

Mr. President and members and guests of the National Association of Broadcasters. Before going to your questions, ladies and gentlemen, I have an announcement with regard to decisions I have made as a result of the lifting of the oil embargo.

First, it will not be necessary for us to have compulsory rationing in the United States.

And, second, effective this Sunday I have rescinded the order which closes all service stations on Sunday.

Third, Director Simon is increasing allocations to industry and agriculture so that they can have the necessary energy to operate at full capacity.

And, fourth, with regard to those gasoline lines which have troubled us in several places in the country, we will now be able to allocate additional gasoline with the purpose of diminishing the lines, and we hope eventually eliminating them.

Now, it is necessary for us to keep this development, however, in perspective.

We must recognize that, as far as price is concerned, the pressure on prices will continue, because the oil we import from abroad—from, for example, the Arab oil-producing countries—costs approximately twice as much as the oil we produce in the United States.

Also, with regard to the shortage, it is not yet over.

We still have an anticipated shortage of perhaps 5 to 8 per cent in the United States. Therefore, it will be necessary to continue our voluntary program of car pooling and also of slower driving.

Third, with regard to the energy shortage generally, I should point to the necessity for action in one area.

When we speak of an energy shortage, the greatest shortage of energy is the lack of energy on the part of the Congress of the United States in getting to work and passing the legislation that will produce more energy in the United States of America.

Now, as all you ladies and gentlemen of the press know and I'm sure in this audience know, there are now 17 bills before the Congress which have not been acted upon which would deal with the problems of increasing the supply of energy.

Among those that come to mind that would have an immediate effect if they were enacted would be, first, the deregulation of natural gas so that we can have additional supplies of natural gas, which we have in great abundance and which is the cleanest fuel that we could possibly have.

Second, it is necessary to develop not only in terms of production but also exploration the sources of energy that the Federal Government has in various installations across the country, particularly in Elk Hills.

And, third, it is essential in terms of energy that the Congress act on the legislation that I have requested which would relax environmental restrictions which at the present time do not allow the mining of coal and the use of coal. And coal is, of course, as you know, our major source of energy. We have

63 per cent of all the coal in the free world.

And it should be used at this time when we do have an energy shortage.

So much for the short-time activities. In addition to that, Congress has before it a number of bills which would affect the long-term problem.

For example, authority to build deep-water ports. For example, authorities that would speed up the construction of nuclear plants, which in the long term is going to be one of the major sources of energy in the United States.

As I have said, and as you have heard me say on many occasions, the purpose of the United States is to develop our energy resources—which we have in abundance—so that by the year 1980 the United States will be completely independent of any foreign source for our energy.

We can accomplish that goal.

But we can accomplish that goal only if the Congress quits dragging its feet on proposals that they now have before them and have had before them for several months.

And I trust, with the cooperation of the Congress and support of the American people, we will be able to have action, and action soon, on these measures that have been submitted.

That's the only announcement that I have, but I understand Mr. Johnson is entitled to the first question.

1. Buckley Call to Resign

Q. You said repeatedly that you will not resign, and yet today Senator James Buckley called for you to perform an extraordinary act of statesmanship and courage, voluntary resignation as he put it the only way by which the Watergate crisis can be resolved. Would you comment on the import of this statement coming from a conservative United States Senator and whether it might cause you to reassess your position?

A. Well, first, it does not cause me to reassess my position, although I of course I do respect the point of view expressed by the Senator and by others, perhaps some sitting here who share that view.

The point that I wish to make, however, is that when we speak of courage, if I could address that from a personal standpoint first of all, it perhaps would be an act of courage to resign.

I should also point out, however, that while it might be an act of courage to run away from a job that you were elected to do, it also takes courage to stand and fight for what you believe is right, and that's what I intend to do.

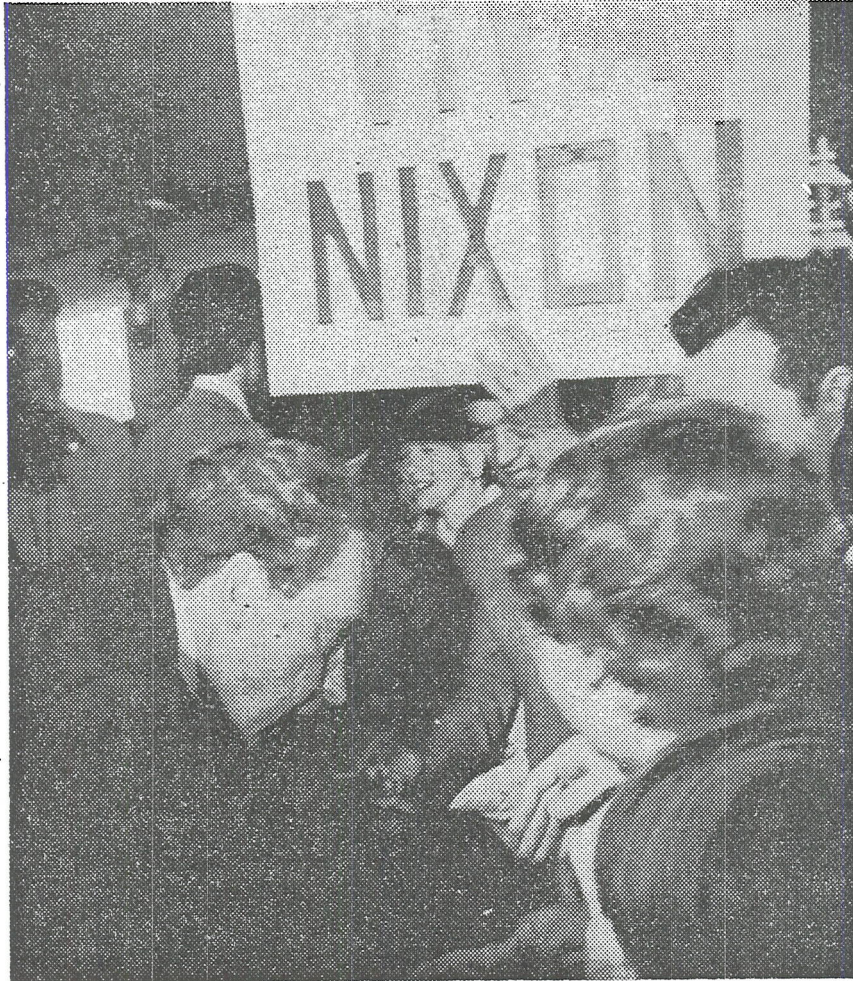
Mr. Johnson, I would not want to leave your question simply with a personal judgment. I'm thinking of the statesmanship which Senator Buckley also addressed.

From the standpoint of statesmanship, for a President of the United States, any President, to resign because of charges made against him which he knew were false, and because he had fallen in the polls, I think would be not statesmanship. It might be good politics, but it would be bad statesmanship.

And it would mean that our system of government would be changed for all Presidents and all generations in the future.

What I mean by that, very simply, is this: The Constitution provides a method by which a President can be removed from office—impeachment. Impeachment for treason and other

Questions and



Associated Press

President Nixon shaking hands with welcomers on his arrival in Houston

high crimes and misdemeanors.

Now, if a President is not guilty of those crimes, if only charges have been made which he knows are false, and if simply because as a result of those false charges and as a result of his falling in the polls, he decides to resign, it would mean then that every future President would be presiding over a very unstable government in the United States of America.

The United States and the free world, the whole world, needs a strong American President. Not an American President who every time the polls goes down says, well, maybe I'd better resign.

Let me give you an example. I've often said to members of the Washington press corps that the most difficult decision I made in my first term was the very last, in December of 1972. You recall then that I found it necessary, because of the breakdown in negotiations in Paris with the North Vietnamese, to order the bombing of military targets in North Vietnam, in the Hanoi and Haiphong region, by B-52's.

The bombing began. We lost planes. And at that time, I can assure that not only my friends but many others who had supported the actions that I had taken to attempt to bring the war in Vietnam to an honorable conclusion criticized, and criticized very strongly, what I had done.

Great newspapers like The Chicago Tribune, The Washington Star, that had previously editorially supported me, for example, were among them.

And many Senators, as well as other public figures, spoke out. As a matter of fact, one Senator said, the President has taken leave of his senses.

Now, I had no hard feelings about that, I made him Attorney General.

The day after Christmas, some of my closest advisers felt that because a poll that they had taken privately indicated that I had dropped 20 points in the polls since the bombing began, that I should consider stopping it.

I considered their advice. I did not take it. I ordered the bombing to continue. I ordered it, as a matter of fact, to be increased on military targets.

Five days later, the deadlock was broken. And as a result of that action — an unpopular action but an action which I felt was right — the longest war in America's history was brought to a conclusion and our prisoners of war were brought home, as I have often said, on their feet rather than on their knees.

Now, I want future Presidents to be able to make hard decisions, even though they think they may be unpopular, even though they think they may bring them down in the polls, even though they may think they may bring upon them criticism from the Congress which could result in demands that he resign or be impeached. I want future Presidents to be able to take the strong right decisions that he believes are right. That's what I did then and that's what I intend to do in the future.

When we get to that answer, it's only right for me to turn to the left.

2. Shortages and Prices

Q. Mr. President, while the Vietnam war was on, we as a nation had to supply a military force, a couple of nations plus our own with food, fuel and just basic commodities—well, in short, all of the things that we now find expensive and scarce. Why is it with the drain now over and even before the oil embargo began, we instead of having surpluses find ourselves with

Answers Before Broadcasters

high priced shortages, and what can be done to bring things back a little closer to normal?

A. The reason why we have the shortages, not only in terms of food, which of course, as you know, came before the energy crisis and resulted in an upsurge in food prices, but also in energy is that it is not just a U. S. crisis but a world crisis, and in a sense that's good, because all over the world people are eating a little better, people are using more energy, and the result is that we need to produce more energy and produce more food in order to deal with these shortages.

Now here in the United States we're moving on the energy crisis as it was—it's now, I think, been reduced to a problem—and we are also trying to move in the food area.

And the way to move is to see to it that we increase production. Let me also suggest that I know many wonder: why not just control the prices?

Well, the way to get prices down is not to control prices at a level where the farmer quits producing and the producer of energy will not sell.

The way to get prices down is to produce more. That's why I am against controls in these areas. We must produce more and we'll get the prices down, and I think we shall.

3. Policy on Middle East

Q. Mr. President, our Middle East policy seems to point three ways—support for Israel, keeping access to Arab oil and containing the Soviet influence, which seems to be touchy at best. But now with the Arab oil embargo lifted and with Egypt seeming to lead the way in that regard, what does that do to U.S.-Middle East policy and especially should push come to shove regarding Israel?

A. I realize that many of those who support Israel and its independence, as I have since that state came into existence, wonder about the policy of the United States which is now one designed not only to be a friend of Israel but to be a friend of Israel's neighbors.

And I would only suggest that in terms of the future of Israel, it is much better to have the United States a friend of Israel's neighbors and thereby able to influence and perhaps restrain their policies rather than an enemy or, with no communication.

And so therefore our policy is designed to accomplish these things:

One, we will continue to support the independence and the integrity of the State of Israel.

Two, we will continue to try to seek not only renewed relations with Egypt but with other countries with which those relations have been broken, as you know in the past, growing out of the June, 1967, war.

But let me make one thing very clear. Being a friend of one of Israel's neighbors does not make us an enemy of Israel.

In the long-term interests of Israel and in the long-term interest of all the countries in the Mideast, it is vital that the United States play a constructive and positive role. For example, the progress on the Syrian disengagement, which will be even more difficult from the disengagement on the Israeli front—Israeli-Egyptian front—is a news item which I think came over the ticker just a few moments ago.

This is a positive move. We have a long way to go. But in the long term,

we have to realize that a United States role in the Mideast must be one that works with all the countries in the area that are willing to work with us.

The other point that I should make that I know perhaps is not included in your question but is implicit in many questions that are asked in this field: Why is it that we follow this attitude in the Mideast and at a time when the Soviet Union seems to be following, some claim or allege, an obstructionist attitude in the Mideast.

Let me say there cannot be permanent peace in the Mideast unless the United States is for it and plays a role to get it. But also there cannot be permanent peace in the Mideast if the Soviet Union is against it.

As far as the Soviet Union and United States are concerned, our interests are not always the same in the Mideast. In my meetings with Mr. Brezhnev two years ago, also this year, and I trust also later in the year, the problem of peace in the Mideast will be high on the agenda.

We will not always agree. But it is to the interest not only of the countries in the Mideast but of the Soviet Union and the United States to work out a permanent settlement, because it is one of those flash points in the world far more important to the interest of the United States and the Soviet Union than a place like Vietnam.

And we cannot again, if we can avoid it, run the risk of a confrontation between the two superpowers in that area of the world.

So, I believe our policy is working toward permanent peace with Israel, with her neighbors and working with the Soviet Union where the Soviet Union is willing to work with us, is in the best interests of everybody concerned.

3. Policy on Middle East

Q. I'd like to follow up that question, Mr. President. In your Chicago meeting with reporters on the Middle East, you said that if the oil embargo lifting had indications that it might be conditional and they might reimpose it, the United States would not be pressured and any implications of pressure would have a counteraffect on the peace negotiations. My question goes to the fact that, according to the news reports, the embargo is lifted on a conditional basis of a review in June. Because of this, will you recommend that Dr. Kissinger break off his efforts in the negotiations between Syria and Israel until there is a firm and final lifting of the embargo?

A. No, I will not, and I will not for this reason, that what the decision was, as I understand, Mr. Jarrell, was that the Arab countries would meet again in June to review the situation. It was not a decision with a condition.

Now, as far as our policy in the Mideast is concerned, we seek a permanent peace as an end in itself. Whatever happens to the oil embargo, peace in the Mideast would be in our interest and in the interests of the whole world.

As far as the oil embargo is concerned, it is in the interest of those countries that imposed it as well as the United States that it be lifted. The two should go parallel. Inevitably, what happens in one area affects the other, and I am confident that the progress we are going to continue to make on the peace front in the Mideast will be very helpful in seeing to it that an oil embargo is not reimposed.

(The rest of the transcript was not available for this edition.)

W/GATE

① BUCKLE

①

SHORTAGES

①

①

w fox

W

non. 4

W

v r r r r

①

r r r

①

①

①

3 6 r

①

v r r 15

①

3 6 r

①

①

①

①

①
165
276
101

① (2)
7
①
03/
①
MIA
①
~~291~~
291
J r r
①
r r
v r r

①
RATHER

r r r

r r

r r r

r r r

r r r

r r r

r r r

r r r

r r r

(3)
①
N r r

①
r r r
r r r

(4)

183