## WEXPost JUN 1 0 1974 Nixon Vows to Stay On

## Supporters Cheer Wildly At Luncheon

By Bob Kuttner Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon assured wildly cheering supporters at a testimonial luncheon yesterday that he will serve out his term and leave office in 1977 with his head "held high."

"I shall do nothing that will weaken this office while I am President," Mr. Nixon dewhile I am clared, prompting chants of "God Bless Nixon."

About 1400

tended the luncheon at the Shoreham Hotel. It was the high point of a conference held by the National Citizens Committee for Fairness to the President, which was organized last year by a Massachusetts rabbi, Baruch Korff. The committee spends most of its budget on newspaper advertisements, and claims a national membership of 2 million.

The attendance of several high administration officials and members of the Nixon family gave yesterday's luncheon the air of an official func-tion. The printed program was emblazoned with the presiden-tial seal, and references on the literature, pins, bumper stickers and posters were to "the presidency," with few allu-sions to Mr. Nixon by name.

However, the speeches and the audience response rethe audience response re-flected a fierce loyalty to President Nixon and a particular hostility to the news media that occassionally erupted into boos and fists directed at the press convering the luncheon.

In a warm-up speech prior to Mr. Nixon's arrival, Sen. Carl Curtis (R-Neb.) told the group, "The get Nixon crowd, including those who continue to conduct a trial-by-press, are in for a big surprise."

Curtis also attacked the Watergate grand jury, "the make-up of which can hardly be described as representative of our country." The federal grand jury is predominantly

The audience gasped as Cur-

tis named several members of Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski's staff who had worked in Democratic ladminstrations. "I criticized the firing of Archibald Cox," Curtis said. "My criticism was that it wasn't soon enough." Cox, the first Watergate special prosecutor, was fired Oct. 20.

"Lynching hasn't stopped in the United States," Curtis declared. "It's just that different people are doing it."

The audience cheered often and loudly.

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Another speaker, Ambassa-Another speaker, Ambassador to Italy John Volpe, got a standing ovation with the declaration, "You just look at this Nixon family. They are a close-knit family."

Pins were presented to the President's daughters, Tricia Nixon Cox and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, and Mrs. Nixon was

honored as a defender of the American family.

"You will be in our hearts all the days of my father's presidency — 965 more days,"

said Mrs. Cox.

Members of the audience besieged the head table for autographs, briefly delaying Mr. Nixon's entrance.

Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz, Office of Management

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## PRESIDENT, From A1

and Budget Director Roy Ash, Treasury Secretary William E. Simon, economic adviser Herbert Stein and lesser officials unaccustomed to autographseekers all signed programs and had their pictures snapped by the high-spirited crowd. At length, Rabbi Korff appealed for order so the Secret Service would let the President enter.

In brief remarks devoted mostly to foreign policy achievements, Mr. Nixon stressed the need for a strong presidency and did not di-rectly refer to his Watergate

troubles.

Citing his foreign policy objectives, Mr. Nixon said, "Whoever is President will hold in his hand responsibility for building on what we have

"A strong American presidency is essential if we are to have peace in the world."

Referring to his departure today on a 15,000-mile Middle East trip, Mr. Nixon said that when he felt tired, he would be "heartened by the memory of this luncheon."

"As Sen. Curtis impied, what we say here will be little noted by the media," said the President, "but what you have done here and throughout the United States will be long re-United States will be long remembered."

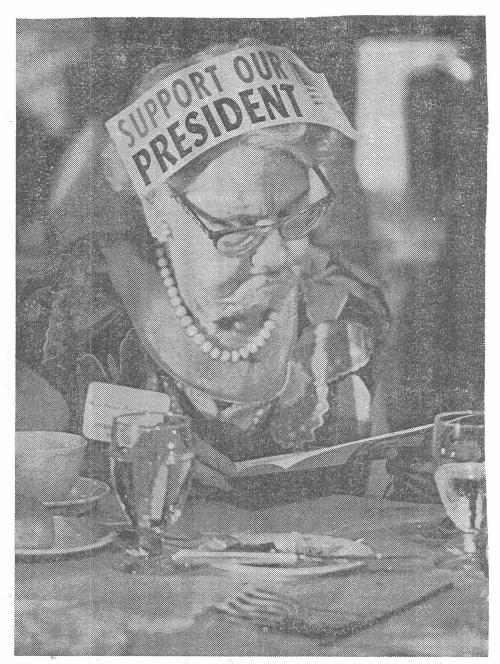
The speech was frequently interrupted by cheers, V-signs and offlag-waving by the friendly crowd. Rabbi Korff sat by the President's side.

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After the President spoke, Rabbi Korff read a proposed resolution of support, citing "the climate of hysteria being engendered by members of the press" and "the impeachment syndrome whithin the House Judiciary Committee," and declaring "our faith in God and country, in constitutional government, in the presidency" and in our beloved idency and in our beloved President who is one of the the presidency."

The a u dience shouted "Ave."

"Aye."
Rabbi Korff paused. "Maybe," he said, "a nay will come from the press."
The Marine Corps Band struck up "Hail to the Chief," and the presidential party exited the land and the presidential party exited the same and the presidential party exited to loud applause.



By Gerald Martineau—The Washington Post Helen Rolingson displays her support for the President at testimonial luncheon.



United Press International At testimonial, President stands with Rabbi Korff, left, and son-in-law Edward Cox.