

A Selection of Quotations Ranging Over

Following is a selection of quotations of President Nixon drawn from various periods of his public life:

Civil Rights

For those millions of Americans who are still denied equality of rights and opportunity, I say there shall be the greatest progress in human rights since the days of Lincoln, 100 years ago. (Presidential nomination acceptance speech, July 28, 1960.)

Oh, that's the whole point. They are basically different. It makes no contribution to progress in this area to say that white people and black people are the same, that they are equal in every respect. In some respects, I can assure you when I look at some of the athletic contests and other areas where our Negro citizens have had an equal chance, they can be very superior to some of the white people who compete with them, and in other areas, the whites may be superior. Let's understand this. I get back to our original point. The greatness of America is that we have diversity, that we are not the same. There are black people and white people. There are people with Italian backgrounds and Irish backgrounds and the rest, and the fact that we are different gives diversity to life and I wouldn't want to change that. I don't want Americans to be just one, great conglomerate mass with no distinction among them. I think having this competition, the friendly competition among people, is a good thing, but let's be sure that the competition is fair; and that means giving everybody an equal chance at the [starting] line and then giving those who haven't had their chance, who've had it denied for a hundred years, that little extra start that they need so that it is in truth an equal chance. That's our goal. (Interview by David Frost, 1968.)

No man can be fully free while his neighbor is not. To go forward at all is to go forward together. This means black and white together, as one nation, not two. The laws have caught up with our conscience, what remains is to give life to what is in the law: To insure at last that as all are born equal in dignity before God, all are born equal in dignity before man. (First Inaugural address, Jan. 20, 1969.)

China

Nothing in my opinion would be more detrimental to the cause of peace and freedom to which we are dedicated. (On recognizing Communist China and admitting her to the United Nations, news conference, Feb. 6, 1960.)

The long-range goal of this Administration is a normalization of our relationships with Mainland China, the People's Republic of China, and the ending of its isolation from the other nations of the world. (News conference, April 29, 1971.)

The United States acknowledges that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is but one

China and that Taiwan is a part of China. The United States Government does not challenge that position. It reaffirms its interest in a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves. With this prospect in mind, it affirms the ultimate objective of the withdrawal of all U.S. forces and military installations from Taiwan. In the meantime, it will progressively reduce its forces and military installations on Taiwan as the tension in the area diminishes (Shanghai, Joint Communiqué issued at the conclusion of the President's visit, Feb. 27, 1972.)

Media

I remember in the dark days of the Hiss case some of the same columnists, some of the same radio commentators who are attacking me now and misrepresenting my position were violently opposing me at the time I was after Alger Hiss. But I continued the fight because I knew I was right. (Speech, Sept. 23, 1952, defending his finances.)

And as I leave the press, all I can say is this: For 16 years, ever since the Hiss case, you've had a lot of fun—a lot of fun—you've had an opportunity to attack me and I think I've given as good as I've taken. . . . I think that it's time that our great newspapers have at least the same objectivity, the same fullness of coverage, that television has. And I can only say thank God for television and radio for keeping the newspapers a little more honest. . . . I leave you gentlemen now and you will now write it. You will interpret it. That's your right. But as I leave you I want you to know—just think how much you're going to be missing. You won't have Nixon to kick around any more, because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference and it will be one in which I have welcomed the opportunity to test wits with you. I have always respected you. I have sometimes disagreed with you. (News conference following the California gubernatorial election that Mr. Nixon lost to Edmund G. Brown, Nov. 7, 1962.)

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, we have had our differences in the past, and I hope you give me hell every time you think I'm wrong. I hope I'm worthy of your trust (Statement to reporters following his address to the nation on Watergate, April 30, 1973, in which he announced the resignations of three of his chief aides.)

I have never heard or seen such outrageous vicious, distorted reporting in 27 years of public life. I am not blaming anybody for that. Perhaps what happened is that what we did brought it about, and therefore, the media decided that they would have to take that particular line. But when people are pounded night after night with that kind of frantic, hysterical reporting, it naturally shakes their confidence. (News conference, Oct. 26, 1973.)

Nixon Doctrine

First, the United States will keep all of its treaty commitments. Second, we shall provide a shield if a nuclear

NYT
8-9-74

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power threatens the freedom of a nation allied with us or of a nation whose survival we consider vital to our security. Third, in cases involving other types of aggression, we shall furnish military and economic assistance when requested in accordance with our treaty commitments. But we shall look to the nation directly threatened to assume the primary responsibility of providing the manpower for its defense. (Radio and television speech, Nov. 3, 1969.)

Crisis

Let me say this: I don't believe that I ought to quit because I'm not a quitter. And, incidentally, Pat's not a quitter. After all, her name was Patricia Ryan and she was born on St. Patrick's Day, and you know the Irish never quit. (Speech, Sept. 23, 1952, defending his finances.)

From my own experience, the bigger the problem, the broader its consequences, the less does an individual think of himself. He has to devote his entire concentration to the much larger problem which confronts him. 'Selflessness' is the greatest asset an individual can have in a time of crisis. 'Selfishness' (in its literal rather than its lay sense) is the greatest liability. . . . A man who has never lost himself in a cause bigger than himself has missed one of life's mountaintop experiences. (From "Six Crises," by Richard M. Nixon.)

I have a quality which it—I guess I must have inherited it from my Midwestern mother and father—which is that the tougher it gets, the cooler I get. . . . I suppose because I have been through so much, that may be one of the reasons that when I have to face an international crisis, I have what it takes. (News conference, Oct. 26, 1973.)

Checkers

One thing I probably should tell you, because if I don't they'll probably be saying this about me too, we did get something—a gift—after the election. A man down in Texas heard Pat on the radio mention the fact that our two youngsters would like to have a dog. And, believe it or not, the day before we left on this campaign trip we got a message from Union Station in Baltimore saying they had a package for us. We went down to get it. You know what it was? It was a little cocker spaniel dog in a crate that he sent all the way from Texas. Black and white spotted. And our little girl—Trisha, the 6-year-old—named it Checkers. And you know the kids love the dog and I just want to say this right now, that regardless of what they say about it, we're gonna keep it. (Speech, Sept. 23, 1952, defending his finances.)

Peace

On what he would like people to say about him after his death:

'He made a great contribution to the peace of the world.' This probably goes back to a family situation. My mother and my grandmother were very devout birthright Quakers and I became, as a participant in World War II and as an antagonist and a very vigorous one in political campaigns, very un-Quakerish in their eyes. But deep down, there runs through me, as there does I think in most Americans, a deep desire for a better world in which we can really have peace. If I don't make a contribution to it, my life will have been a failure. (Interview by David Frost, 1968.)

The greatest honor history can bestow is the title of peacemaker. This honor now beckons America . . . the chance to help lead the world at last out of the valley of turmoil and onto that high ground of peace that man has dreamed of since the dawn of civilization. If we succeed, generations to come will say of us now living that we mastered our moment, that we helped make the world safe for mankind. This is our summons to greatness. . . . After a period of confrontation, we are entering an era of negotiation. (First Inaugural address, Jan. 20, 1969.)

We stand on the threshold of a new era of peace in the world. . . . Because of America's bold initiatives, 1972 will be long remembered as the year of the greatest progress since the end of World War II toward a lasting peace in the world. (Second Inaugural address, Jan. 23, 1973.)

Apollo II

This certainly has to be the most historic telephone call ever made from the White House in for every American this has to be the proudest day of our lives. (Speaking to first astronauts on the moon, July 20, 1969.)

This is the greatest week in the history of the world since the creation, because as a result of what happened in this week, the world is bigger, infinitely, and also . . . as a result of what you have done, the world has never been closer together before. (After splashdown, July 24, 1969.)

Americans

The average American is just like the child in the family. You give him some responsibility and he is going to amount to something. . . . If, on the other hand, you make him completely dependent and pamper him and cater to him too much, you are going to make him soft, spoiled and eventually a very weak individual. (Interview by Garnett D. Horner, Nov. 5, 1972.)

Constitution

Our country can't afford the agony of a constitutional crisis—and I damn well will not be a party to creating one just to become President or anything else. (From "Nixon: A Political Portrait" by Earl Mazo and Stephen Hess, on the possibility of challenging results of the election of 1960.)