

Ford's Advice to GOP Candidates

Washington

President Ford described his election year goal yesterday as "an inflation-proof Congress" and urged Republican candidates to campaign on a tight-spending, anti-inflation platform this fall.

Mr. Ford laid out the fall campaign line in his first speech to the Republican National Committee since becoming President.

The committee, going along with the President's wishes, elected Mary Louise Smith of Iowa as the first woman chairman in its history at its meeting at the Mayflower Hotel here.

The committee, also without vocal dissent, then passed a resolution praising former President Nixon, asserting that his "remarkable accomplishments will be treated kindly by history."

Neither the resolution nor any of the others praising Mr. Ford and his vice president-designate, Nelson A. Rockefeller, mentioned the pardon which the President extended to Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Ford's speech was in the way of a rebuttal to the campaign slogan of Democratic labor leaders and some House Democrats who pledged their congressional campaign efforts this fall to the pursuit of a "veto-proof Congress."

"That would be a Congress that would spend more and more," Mr. Ford warned.

"We want to elect an inflation-proof Congress," he said. "Those members of Congress who support our effort to fight inflation will get my full endorsement."

The controversial pardon issue was never mentioned during the national committee's business meeting and luncheon speeches, but it was very much on the mind of the members.

Richard L. Herman, national committeeman from Nebraska, told reporters, "Politically, it (the pardon) hurt us a little. It is being talked about — it's a momentary focus for Democrats to talk about."

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