

## Nixon Chat With Demonstrators Contained a Lesson, Aide Said

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NEW CONCORD, Ohio, May 31 (UPI) — President Nixon made small talk about football and surfing to put college protesters at ease in a confrontation at the Lincoln Memorial May 9, but he really wanted to help them to understand the "lessons of history," Ronald L. Ziegler, White House press secretary, said today.

It was the first indication that the White House was chafing over reports by some of the student dissenters that Mr. Nixon talked about football and surfing in their unexpected dialogue with him when he showed up at the monument at 4:30 A.M. the morning of their demonstration against his decision to move into Cambodia.

Mr. Ziegler said in a commencement address at Muskingham College that Mr. Nixon wanted to leave the protesters with some thoughts about the basic questions that face their generation in the future.

"He made some small talk, of course, to try to put them at ease," Mr. Ziegler said.

"He asked them where they were from, and chatted with them a bit about their colleges and what they were studying, and about Washington, which a lot of them had never visited before.

"But essentially, he talked with them about some of the longer-term lessons of history, and about the various countries of the world and the importance of getting to know the people of those countries in order to understand the world.

"He talked about how what seems the attractive course is not always the right course—about how, for example, in the nineteen-thirties he thought Neville Chamberlain was the greatest man alive and Churchill was a madman, only to learn later that Chamberlain was a good man, but Churchill was a wiser man—and that Churchill was right.

"The lessons of history he discussed were those, essentially that concern the difference between wishing for peace and achieving peace—between merely raising hopes and realizing hopes—and that reminds us of the importance of understanding history itself if we are truly to understand the present, or guide the future into what we want it to be."