

S.F. EXAMINER

Protesters Jeer Nixon in Corn Belt

DES MOINES — (UPI) — President Nixon came to the heart of the Corn Belt today with a \$100 million sweetener of his Rural Community Development program and ran into a crowd of dissident farmers, "hard hat" construction workers and anti-war demonstrators — all protesting administration policies.

The crowd, estimated in the thousands, massed on the lawn of the golden-domed Iowa Capitol as the President addressed a joint session of the Iowa Legislature inside.

The demonstrators surged across the Capitol lawn trying to intercept Nixon's arrival and greeted him with boos when he emerged.

The crowds lining the streets in downtown Des Moines were warm and friendly, however, and the President got out of his car at a street corner to shake hands, chat, and sign an autograph.

In his speech to the Legislature and in a later meeting with four Midwest governors, Nixon outlined his plan to fatten his \$1 billion Rural Community Development program by another \$100 million.

He said his plans for rural development under his "special revenue sharing" concept now represent a 24 percent increase in federal funds for rural communities.

The Iowa legislators cheered him when he said, "I want those decisions that affect rural America made by those who know rural America . . . those who live there. To put it bluntly, I believe that legislators in Iowa know better than bureaucrats in Washington, D.C."

"The direct dollar benefit

—Turn to Page 16, Col. 1

—From Page 1

to rural America is obvious," Nixon said of his program. "In addition, rural America will share substantially in general revenue sharing funds and in special sharing for manpower, transportation, education, and law enforcement."

When he came out of the Capitol, smiling and bare-headed, about a dozen snowballs arched toward him from the crowd. None hit the President and he kept smiling and waving in the face of signs and shouts from the union workers, farmers, and anti-war protesters.

The construction workers were there to protest Nixon's move to force a downward trend in construction wages and the farmers voiced disapproval of administration agricultural policies. They represented a sharp contrast to the usual ranks of long-haired anti-war demonstrators.

The protesters began gathering on the Capitol lawn almost three hours before Nixon's arrival. As Nixon's motorcade approached, however, it suddenly changed direction and swung to the rear entrance of the Capitol.

Entered Rear Door

The demonstrators surged across the lawn in an attempt to catch up with the President. There were chants and jeers from the anti-war faction, but the "hard hats" and the farmers were mostly silent.

The President and his party entered the rear door of the Capitol without a direct

confrontation with the demonstrators.

Nixon flew to Des Moines for the first of a series of grassroots appearances aimed at developing support for his revenue sharing and government reorganization proposals. They face heavy opposition in Congress.

Scatter Functions

Nixon also sought to counter farm bloc criticism of his executive reorganization plan which would eliminate the Department of Agriculture as a separate agency and scatter its functions among four proposed new agencies.

"It comes to a question of whether farmers and others in rural America want an Agriculture Department for its own sake or whether they really want things like better farm prices, better technical assistance for agricultural

problems, wider development opportunities in rural communities, better schools, better roads and so on," Nixon said.

"I think they want the latter — the tangible results."

"Under the present setup, only one cabinet department represents the farmer. Under my proposed reorganization, four cabinet secretaries — half the cabinet — will be speaking up for the farmer when his diverse interests are at stake."

Refresh, Renew

Nixon said changes he proposed in his State of the Union speech Jan. 22 would bring about a peaceful American revolution to return "power to the people." They would "refresh and renew" government, he said.

Page 16—S.F. Examiner ☆☆☆☆ Mon., Mar. 1, 1971



NIXONS WELCOMED TO IOWA AT DES MOINES AIRPORT
The President and First Lady were met by Governor and Mrs. Robert Ray

—AP Photo