

Cool Day in Iowa

Unusual Alliance Heckles Nixon

Washington Post Service

Des Moines, Iowa

President Nixon campaigned for his new American revolution in the heart of rural America yesterday but the reception was mostly cool.

He was met by thin crowds, chilly weather and an unusual joint protest of hard hat construction men, anti-war students and angry farmers.

In the wide plaza outside the Iowa state capitol, the mixed bag of at least 1000 demonstrators shouted boos and catcalls at the president and carried a malange of signs ranging from "Nixon unfair to labor" and "hog prices are too low" to "end the war now." At one point a volley of snowballs and at least one baseball-sized rock were thrown at the president.

Mr. Nixon laughed off the snowballs, chuckling, "Oh, my goodness, snowballs are

fun," and he may not have seen the rock.

Later, in reference to the bombing of the U.S. capitol, he declared that "violent people" would not succeed in closing public buildings or keeping the president at home.

"They would like to keep the president in Washington rather than come out in the country. Well, it won't work," he declared.

The formal purpose of the president's 4½-hour trip to Des Moines was to attend a rural development meeting of four midwestern governors and four U.S. cabinet members, but an informal purpose was to stem the rural disaffection which cost the Republicans four governorships and eight congressional seats last fall.

Mr. Nixon brought with

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him from Washington the promise of an additional \$100 million for rural community development programs, to be added to the \$1 billion he has asked for such programs in his special revenue sharing proposal to replace categorical aid programs.

In a 26-minute address to Iowa legislators, whose applause was warm but infrequent, the President asserted that his plan to split the U. S. Department of Agriculture among four of the proposed new super-departments would benefit rural America.

farmers

while "only one" cabinet secretary represents farmers today, Mr. Nixon declared that "under my proposed reorganization, four cabinet secretaries — half of the cabinet — will be speaking up for the farmer when his diverse interests are at stake."

The President declared his revenue-sharing proposals would bring government closer to the people of rural America, and held out the hope that the money from Washington might provide

relief from the mounting burden of state and local taxes.

"The people who know a place best are the people who live here," he declared. "To put it bluntly I believe that legislators in Iowa, in this capital, know better than bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., what is best for Iowa." At that point the lawmakers gave him a 10-second ovation.

AFTERNOON

Mr. Nixon and the First Lady flew back to the White House in the afternoon, arriving at 3:34 p.m. (PST).

Yesterday's visit was Mr. Nixon's first trip to Des Moines since September 14, 1969, during his campaign for the presidency, when he posed for pictures driving a picker-sheller in a nearby cornfield and released his campaign statement on agriculture. He said then that the then-existing farm cost-price "parity" ratio of 74 per cent was "intolerable in my book" and that "farmers are entitled to better . . . and I pledge that in my administration they will have better."

The statement was quoted

yesterday by farm protesters outside the Iowa capitol. In December, 1970, the parity ration sunk to 67 per cent, the lowest since 1933.

The farmers outside the capitol, members of the National Farm Organization, carried such signs as "prices not promises" and "17cents a pound hogs; \$1.25 pork chops — why."

The hard hat construction workers, from the local building trades council, were protesting Mr. Nixon's suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act, which supports union wages in U.S. construction. Some of the hard-hat workers carried handmade signs that said, "Impeach Nixon."