

NIXON SEES LAXITY BY BOTH PARTIES ON SPENDING LAW

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Notes 'Technical Violations' and Says Democrats Will Be Accused This Week

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Aug. 29—President Nixon said today at a news conference that both the Democratic and the Republican parties had apparently committed "technical violations" of the new campaign spending and reporting law.

He refused to specify the Democratic violations but said

*Transcript of news conference
appears on Page 20.*

they would be divulged by investigators later this week.

Mr. Nixon reaffirmed his faith in Maurice H. Stans, finance chairman of the Committee for the re-election of the President, and expressed confidence that Mr. Stans would correct "whatever technical violations have occurred" and would "thoroughly comply with the law." [Question 1, Page 20.]

G.A.O. Cited Violations

The General Accounting Office released an audit of Mr. Stans's financial operations last week, citing nine apparent violations of the law governing campaign contributions.

Senator George McGovern, the Democratic Presidential nominee, has since been taunting the Nixon Administration on the issue almost daily while asserting that his own campaign finances are above reproach.

Mr. Nixon appeared at the news conference both in his role as President and his role as leader of his party and candidate for re-election.

Aides Defended

The meeting with newsmen, announced only hours before it was held, was scheduled as a "political" news conference in line with a promise he made at his last news conference on July 27. It came on the day when his political rival, Sena-

tor McGovern, was making what his aides described as one of his most important policy speeches of the campaign.

Wearing his Presidential hat, Mr. Nixon dealt with questions on Vietnam [Questions 3 through 8] and discussed his forthcoming trip to Hawaii to

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confer with premier Kakuei Tanaka of Japan [Question 12].

In his role as candidate and party leader, Mr. Nixon defended his political operatives against various charges, including the bugging of Democratic headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington [Question 2]; set forth some of his plans and hopes for the coming campaign (Question 9), and pledged that if he won the "new majority" he seeks the first six months of his second term in the White House would be as exciting as President Roosevelt's first 100 days in 1933.

Though he sought to keep the two roles separate, some of his comments this morning suggested that the distinction may be hard to maintain in the weeks ahead. Discussing the prospects for peace in Vietnam, for example, he spoke of his own efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement but then, in a clear reference to Senator McGovern, he said:

"I think there are those who have faulted this Administration on its efforts to seek peace, but those who fault it, I would respectfully suggest, are ones that would have the United States seek peace at the cost of surrender, dishonor and the world."

"We will seek peace. We will seek better relations with our adversaries, but we are going to keep the United States strong. We are going to resist the efforts of those who would cut our defense budget to make us second to any power in the world."

Addressing himself to the Watergate bugging issue, which the McGovern forces have also seized upon as an illustration of unethical behavior in the Nixon camp, the President said that an investigation carried out at his instructions by John Bean, counsel to the President, had satisfied him that "no one in the White House staff, no one in the Administration, presently employed, was involved in this very bizarre incident."

E. Howard Hunt, who has been mentioned frequently in connection with the bugging incident, once worked for Charles Colson, special counsel to the President.

Mr. Nixon also noted that

various other investigations of the incident were under way, including one under the supervision of Clark MacGregor, director of the campaign committee.

"I think under these circumstances we are doing everything we can to take this incident and to investigate it and not to cover it up," Mr. Nixon said. "What really hurts in matters of this sort is not the fact that they occur, because overzealous people in campaigns do things that are wrong. What really hurts is if you try to cover it up."

Mr. Nixon did not discuss specific campaign issues in detail except to say, in answer to a question, that his views on amnesty and Mr. McGovern's were clearly different.

He said that those who left the country to escape the draft must "pay the penalty" for breaking the law. "The other side," he said—Mr. Nixon did not mention Senator McGovern's name during the news conference—"does not share that view."

In more general language, however, Mr. Nixon gave some glimpses of his strategies and hopes.

His basic ambition, he said, is to achieve a "clear majority" of the American people and thereby a clear mandate for gradual reform, or what Mr. Nixon described as "change that works."

By "clear majority," he said, he does not mean a "new coalition." He said he rejected the idea of a "new coalition" because the very notion of a coalition "is not a healthy thing in a free society."

Automatically, he asserted, coalition politics means pitting the young against the old, black against white, Catholics against Protestants, city people against country people.

"What we are doing," he said "is to make our appeal across the board and try to build a new majority on the basis of people from all the groups supporting us on the basis of what we believe."

He said he wished for a clear mandate for a firm defense policy, revenue sharing, welfare reform, control of the environment, new health programs and what he described as "progress without raising taxes."

Mr. McGovern has called for many of the same programs, but his spending estimates as a rule are higher than Mr. Nixon's, and the President is clearly hoping that the electorate will give his more cautious approach to national problems a resounding vote of confidence.

In addition, he said, he thinks he will receive support from those who agree with his efforts to restore law, order, and

a sense of calm on a country that he described as "torn apart physically and torn apart inside" four years ago.

The President all but conceded that even if he received a "clear majority" of the electorate it would be very difficult to win a Republican majority in the House and Senate.

However, he indicated that he would gladly settle for what in effect would be an ideological majority—a combination of Democrats and Republicans "who support what the President believes in."