

NIXON'S MESSAGE ON STATE OF UNION IS FIRM ON CUTS

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Urges 'Responsible Leaders'
to Take a Position Against
'Overgrown Government'

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SEVERAL REPORTS DUE

President Asserts He'll Seek
a 'Working Relationship'
With Legislative Branch

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 2—

President Nixon, whose budget cuts and pledges to dismantle social programs have stirred angry debate in Congress, sent to Congress today a State of the Union Message that was unyielding in his intention to "draw the line" on spending.

"The time has come for us to draw the line," Mr. Nixon said. "The time has come for

Text of President's message
appears on Page 14.

the responsible leaders of both political parties to take a stand against overgrown Government and for the American taxpayer."

Mr. Nixon pledged to "do my part to achieve a constructive working relationship with the Congress," but there was no indication in the 1,800-word message that he would soften his demands for reshaping the Government along conservative lines under a powerful Presidency.

Today's message was the first of several that Mr. Nixon said he would send to Congress in the next few weeks under the constitutional requirement that the President inform the legislative branch from time to time on the state of the Union.

Single Message Ruled Out

"With so many changes in Government programs under consideration — and with our very philosophy about the relationship between the individual and the state at a historic crossroads," the President said, "a single, all-embracing State of the Union Message would not appear to be adequate."

Mr. Nixon also broke with a precedent, established by Woodrow Wilson in 1913, of not delivering the message in person. Heretofore, Mr. Wilson's precedent of appearing annually before a joint session of Congress had been broken only twice, by President Eisenhower in 1956 and 1961.

Today's message came at a time when Congress seemed to be heading for a showdown with the White House over Federal spending priorities. Bills that would carry domestic spending far beyond the limits set by Mr. Nixon were moving through legislative processes, and Cabinet members

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were being confronted by angry members in both Houses.

Mr. Nixon declared the state of the nation to be "sound and full of promise."

"We enter 1973 economically strong, militarily secure and, most important of all, at peace after a long and trying war," he said.

On foreign policy, he said that the United States had come out of the Vietnam war as a nation "whose word is believed and whose strength is respected."

"We must act in such a way in coming years that this credibility will remain intact, and with it, the world stability of which it is so indispensable a part."

Most of the message, however, was devoted to his intention, outlined in his Jan. 20 inaugural address and in his Budget Message this week, to disengage the Federal Govern-

ment in many of its endeavors of recent years and to turn authority back to local governments.

"We must reject the mistaken notion—a notion that has dominated too much of the public dialogue for too long—that ever-bigger Government is the answer to every problem," he said.

"Hard decisions must be made and we must stick by them," Mr. Nixon said.

Yet he insisted that the policies he would outline to Congress in the weeks ahead "represent a pragmatic reduction to social compassion and national excellence" and his language promising what was to come rivaled that of Democratic Presidents of recent years.

In human resources, Mr. Nixon said, "I will have recommendations to advance the nation's health and education, to improve conditions of people in need, to carry forward our increasingly successful attacks on crime, drug abuse and injustice, and to deal with such important areas of special concern as consumer affairs."

"We do a better job in com-

munity development," he said, "in creating more livable communities, in which all of our children can grow up with full access to opportunity and greater immunity to the social evils and blights which now plague so many of our towns and cities."

In economics, the President said, "our objectives will be to hold down taxes, to continue controlling inflation, to promote economic growth, to increase productivity, to encourage foreign trade, to keep farm income high, to bolster small business, and to promote better labor-management relations."

In these promises to "build a better life for all Americans," Mr. Nixon did not disclose the details of how he would bring them about.