

See College Poll, SF Examiner 15 Dec 70;
Reston, NYTimes 8 Jan 71.

NIXON PROPOSES AGENCY TO ENLIST SERVICE OF YOUTH

Will Ask Congress to Merge
Peace Corps, VISTA and
Other Federal Efforts

SPEAKS AT NEBRASKA U.

President Seeks 'Alliance of
Generations' to Help Poor
at Home and Overseas

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Excerpts from Nixon's address
will be found on Page 12.

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LINCOLN, Neb., Jan 14 — President Nixon called on young and old alike today to "forge an alliance of the generations" and as evidence of his commitment to that goal, proposed setting up a new Government agency to enlist the energies and idealism of youth.

In an address on the role of youth in American society, the President disclosed his plans to an audience of some 9,000 students and faculty members at the University of Nebraska Coliseum.

He said that he would ask the new Congress for authority to combine the Peace Corps, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and other Federal agencies into a new volunteer service corps "that will give young Americans an expanded opportunity" to serve the poor at home and abroad.

Conciliatory in Tone

"Let us forge an alliance of the generations," Mr. Nixon said. "Let us work together to seek out those ways by which the commitment and the com-

passion of one generation can be linked to the will and the experience of another, so that together we can serve America better, and America can better serve mankind."

In both tone and content, Mr. Nixon's remarks to the students were far more conciliatory than his approach to them in the last political campaign, when he regularly denounced protests and campus activists.

Today, by contrast, he conceded that his own generation must accept some of the blame for the divisions in the nation, and must do more to give young people "the power to participate" in shaping the nation's course.

"There can be no generation gap in America," Mr. Nixon said. "The destiny of this nation is not divided into yours and ours — it is one destiny. We share it together, we are responsible for it together and, in the way we respond, history will judge us together."

"There's been too much emphasis on the differences between the generations in America," he went on. "There's been too much of a tendency of

Continued on Page 12, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

many of my generation to blame all of your generation for the excesses of the violent few.

"Let me repeat what I have said over and over again during the past two years. I believe one of America's most priceless assets is the idealism which motivates the young people of America."

"My generation has invested all that it has, not only its love but its hope and its faith, in yours, he continued. "I believe you will redeem that faith and justify that hope. I believe that, as our generations work together, as we strive together, as we aspire together, we can achieve together—achieve great things for America and the world."

The President flew here after ending a 10-day working vacation at the Western White House in San Clemente, Calif. Later he flew on to Washington.

When Mr. Nixon alighted from his limousine at the Coliseum here, a snowball sailed out of the crowd and struck his leg. He good naturedly picked it up and tossed it back.

The President's proposal to merge VISTA, the Peace Corps, and other Federal programs into a single agency aimed to attract young volunteers to government service arose, he said, out of his wish to "give substance to this alliance between the generations."

Gets Standing Ovation

He further announced that Joseph Blachford, present director of the Peace Corps, would head the new agency if it received Congressional approval.

The audience gave Mr. Nixon a standing ovation when he entered the fieldhouse, and it listened attentively as he delivered his remarks in a quiet voice.

There were a few shouts of "Peace now?" as he moved to the rostrum, but the chant died quickly. There were also several protesters outside, carrying signs that read "Peace—Not Football—Is Number One," a reference to Nebraska's top ranking in the final Associated Press rating of college football teams.

Two of the guests who shared the platform with the President wore black armbands in silent protest against the nation's continuing involvement in Indochina.

They were Steve Tiwald, president of the student government and Ken Wald, president of the Innocents Society, an honorary group. But both applauded the President when he arrived, and both sat quietly during the speech.

Mr. Nixon warmed his audience by talking at length about Nebraska's team before he launched into his prepared remarks, and he presented Bob Devaney, the Nebraska coach, with a plaque honoring the

Cornhuskers for its ranking.

In his formal speech, Mr. Nixon again pledged to bring the Vietnam war to an end and achieve for those in his audience "a full generation of peace." Yet the crucial question, he said, is "what will we do with the peace?"

With this as his central theme, the President then listed a variety of problems to which he said youths could constructively turn themselves—the environment, the decay of the cities, the decline of rural America, the consequences of technology.

"In your hands now rests the question of the future of this nation, of its promise of pro-

gress and prosperity, of the dream of democracy and the future of freedom—of whether men can continue to be governed by human wisdom."

Appealing to his listeners to rejoin the "system," Mr. Nixon pointed out that 18-year-olds now possess the right to vote in Federal elections and that this would give youth a powerful weapon with which to give "freshness and vitality to the purpose of government."

"I know that there are those who reject politics, who scorn the political life," he went on. "and I can assure you that politics attracts its share of bad people, but so do all the other

professions. This does not reflect on the political system. For politics is a process, not an end in itself, and the process can be as good or as bad as the people that are part of it."