

PRESIDENT URGES NATION TO ACHIEVE 'NEW PROSPERITY'

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Asserts Goal, Without War
or Inflation, Is Possible
Through Pride in Work

MEANY IN A NEW ATTACK

Calls Nixon Proposal 'Form
of Socialism' Designed to
Assist 'Big Business'

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 6—President Nixon called upon all Americans today to dedicate themselves to "a new prosperity without war and without inflation." He said the goal could be achieved through increased productivity and continued faith in the "work ethic" in American society.

In a Labor Day address to the nation, Mr. Nixon said that the qualities of self-sacrifice, industry, and self-reliance that have

*The text of Nixon's speech
is printed on Page 14.*

made "the American workingman unique in the world" had not disappeared and that the "overwhelming response" of support for his economic recovery program proved it.

"Let the detractors of America, the doubters of the American spirit, take note," Mr. Nixon intoned. "America's competitive spirit, the work ethic of this people, is alive and well on Labor Day, 1971."

Camp David Broadcast

Mr. Nixon's address was broadcast by radio from a small cabin near the main lodge of his mountain retreat at Camp David, Md.

In another radio address today, a quite different assessment of the present state of the economy and what ought to be done to improve it was offered by George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Written and recorded before Mr. Nixon's speech, the Meany address nevertheless constituted a savage rebuttal.

Where Mr. Nixon was bullish and pleased, Mr. Meany was pessimistic and angry. Where Mr. Nixon drew a portrait of a vigorous, proud work force some 80-million strong — needing only better training, management techniques, business investment and "job satisfaction" to become even more productive—Mr. Meany focused on the five million Americans who do not have jobs and on "the backlog of unfinished business" in housing, education and health.

A Hint on Battle Lines

Neither Mr. Nixon's appeal for greater industrial productivity nor Mr. Meany's crusty criticisms of the President's recovery program represented a new departure for either man. The two speeches suggested, however, how the lines will be drawn when Congress returns to work Wednesday and hearings open in the House Ways

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and Means Committee on the President's proposal to revive the economy through tax incentives to business, tax reductions for individuals and the removal of automobile excise taxes.

Mr. Meany assailed the President's program as "a form of socialism for big business." He reserved special criticism for the proposed investment tax credit, which Mr. Nixon has advertised as necessary for "job development."

"It is incomprehensible," Mr. Meany said, "that the President of the United States would at this point in time, propose the same kind of 'trickle down' economic program that has been discredited so often before

"He is proposing to hand over the people's money to industry in order, he says, to stimulate industrial development. But, "Mr. Meany continued, "at this very hour industry can find no use for 27 per cent of the industrial capacity that already exists."

The 70-year-old labor leader asserted that the most direct route to recovery was to enlarge the purchasing power of the American consumer through more generous tax concessions for individuals and through far greater public investment in schools, hospitals, new housing and public transportation.

There have been reports in recent days that the White House has made an effort to enlist Mr. Meany's support for the program, and White House spokesmen have not endorsed earlier complaints from some Administration officials that Mr. Meany was "out of touch" with the sentiments of rank-and-file workers.

But there was no evidence in Mr. Meany's speech tonight that these gestures had weakened his resolve to oppose the President's recovery plans.

Big Business View Seen

"Mr. Nixon's new proposals are part of his continuing lack of concern for the public interest, clearly illustrated by his record," Mr. Meany said.

He accused the President of "reneging" on his revenue-sharing program, on which Mr. Nixon has asked that the effective date be delayed. Mr. Meany also accused the President of acting "in the tradition of every big-business-oriented Administration this nation has had."

For his part, Mr. Nixon avoided controversy and spoke only in passing of the criticisms of his recovery plan.

"Of course, there have been complaints, there have been counter-suggestions, there have been criticisms by special interest groups," he said. "But the most heartening reaction was the surge of national confidence the reaffirmation of our competitive spirit, the willingness to make a personal sacrifice in

pursuit of worthy goals by the man in the street, the worker on the job, and the home-maker trying to balance the family budget."

Mr. Nixon said he interpreted this response as proof that traditional American virtues—"the dignity of work, the value of achievement, the morality of self-reliance"—were not going "out of style." As evidence, he cited a letter from a state employe in Texas—later identified by the White House as Paul H. Allen, of Longview.

Mr. Allen wrote in support of the President's economic policy despite the fact that both he and his wife, a teacher, had been scheduled to receive salary increases this month but would not receive them because of the wage-price freeze.

'Thousands' of Letters

There was no immediate explanation of why the President had singled out Mr. Allen's letter from "the thousands" he said he had received at the White House, but observers here recalled that Gov. Preston E. Smith of Texas, a Democrat, was the first public official to defy the wage-price freeze by pledging to carry through with scheduled pay increases for state employes such as Mr. Allen. Governor Smith later backed down.

Having found the "work ethic" to be "alive and well," Mr. Nixon went on to add that today's wage earners faced special problems that required fresh approaches by management and the public.

He said that ways must be found to reward "extra effort," provide greater occupational variety, "reinstill a pride of craftsmanship," insure "equal opportunities," and make certain "that technology does not dehumanize work."

'Menial' Jobs Defended

In a sentence that recalled themes of earlier speeches, Mr. Nixon also said that the nation must learn to "give more respect to the proud men and women" who occupy jobs that society at large regards as "menial." He recalled that his father had worked at a succession of low-paying tasks and said:

"No job is menial if it leads to self-reliance, self-respect and individual dignity."

If these and other "new needs" of the American worker could be fulfilled, Mr. Nixon argued, output per man hour—or productivity — would inevitably increase, leading to lower prices and more "real" wages.

Better training, business investment in modern equipment, and efficient management would also increase productivity, Mr. Nixon said, but he added that "job satisfaction" and "employee motivation" were no less crucial to a bustling and competitive economy.

"We must always remember that the most important part of the quality of life is the quality of work," he said. "And the new need for job satisfaction is the key to the quality of work."

Several hours later, Mr. Meany went on the air to make it clear that for his own part he was more interested in the quantity of work available.