

NIXON ASKS NONPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS PENDING IN CONGRESS; PROPOSES HIGHER DEFENSE OUTLAY

SCHOOL AID URGED

State of Union Report Calls for Alternative to Property Tax

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 — President Nixon appealed to an election-year Congress today to set aside partisanship in the interests of "high statesmanship" and the swift enactment of programs "which deal with the urgent priorities for the nation."

On the third anniversary of his inauguration, Mr. Nixon stood in the House chamber and delivered a State of the Union address that contained

The text of Nixon's address is printed on Page 18.

few new initiatives, a strong plea for the enactment of old initiatives and — despite his professed non-partisan posture — more than a few hints of the agenda he intends to offer the electorate next fall.

Mr. Nixon said at the outset that he did not intend this year to present a "huge" list of new proposals. He confined his half-hour speech to a summary of the distance he thought he had brought the nation in three years and the directions he said it must take in the months ahead to become "a better nation in a more peaceful world."

Cooperative Mood Hinted

Mr. Nixon's speech drew outspoken criticism from Democratic Presidential candidates, but the response of Congress as a whole seemed cooperative.

The President reserved the specifics of his argument for a separate, 15,000-word written document presented separately to members of Congress. Taken together, the speech and the longer, written State of the Union Message offered the following major new proposals:

Higher defense spending in the 1973 fiscal year, aimed largely at improving the nation's sea-based deterrent to "maintain the strength necessary to deter war."

A program, the details of which will be described later this year, to find alternate means of financing the public schools and thus relieve the burden of property taxes on property owners, especially "the elderly and the retired."

Another program, which he said he would explain in a later message to Congress, that would establish a joint partnership between the Federal Government and private industry to encourage technological research and development and "create new industries as well as creating more jobs."

In addition, in the written message, he offered a host of

Continued on Page 18, Column 3

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

less ambitious proposals and promises: Lower draft calls, more Federal aid for predominantly black colleges, new authority for the Civil Rights Commission to monitor discrimination against women, heavier Federal purchases of farm surpluses, extra job training for workers, expanded programs for the aged and an "allied services act" offering more efficient delivery of Federal programs to the poor.

But his essential purpose today was not to offer a new agenda but to ask Congress's help to redeem the pledges he made a year ago. He said that Congress had failed to pass more than 90 "major" pieces of legislation that he had offered since his inauguration.

He said that these included most of the major items of the "new American revolution" he proposed in his State of the Union message last year — welfare reform, government reor-

ganization, environmental protection laws and health care.

"Now 1971 we can say was a year of consideration of these messages," he said. "Now let us join in making 1972 a year of action on them, action by the Congress, for the nation, and for the people of America."

"There are great national problems that are so vital that they transcend partisanship," Mr. Nixon said. "And so let us have our debates, let us have our honest differences but let us join in keeping the national interest first."

"Let us join," he continued, "in making sure that legislation the nation needs does not become hostage to the political interests of any party or any person."

Despite these and similar exhortations to statesmanship, the political flavor of the day — and of Mr. Nixon's performance — was inescapable. Three possible Democratic challengers for the White House — Senators Edmund S. Muskie, Hubert H. Humphrey and Edward M. Kennedy — sat in a tight little cluster to Mr. Nixon's right.

Two others — Senators Henry M. Jackson and George McGovern — were not on hand to hear Mr. Nixon. They were out campaigning.

Hewing to partisan lines, and following the practices of past State of the Union Messages, Republicans applauded lustily — Mr. Nixon was interrupted 13 times during the speech — while the Democrats were at best polite.

Meanwhile, from the galleries above, Mrs. Nixon and her two daughters beamed approval at the speaker. Mrs. Nixon wore red, Tricia wore white, Julie wore blue — colors to match the speaker's rhetorical affirmations of the essential strengths of the nation.

"There are those who say that the old spirit of '76 is dead, that we no longer have the strength of character, the idealism, the faith in our founding purposes, that spirit represents," Mr. Nixon declared in part.

"Those who say this do not know America," he added.

The country has, he conceded, undergone a difficult period of self doubt and self criticism. But these doubts and criticisms, he said, "are only the other side of our growing sensitivity to the persistence of want in the midst of plenty, of our impatience with the slowness with which age-old ills are being overcome."

Mr. Nixon's challenge to his Democratic opponents—those who were there as well as those who were not—lay not so much in his effort to goad the Democratic Congress into action but in his claims of progress during his term.

Asserting that he had inherited a nation tortured by domestic discord, war, soaring

prices and rising crime, Mr. Nixon said that in the last three years tranquility had returned to the campuses and order to the cities. The rate of crime has gone down, he said, and so has the rate of inflation.

He touched on the broader aspects of his foreign policy only briefly, but he claimed significant gains. He said the Administration had adopted a more modest and realistic view of the country's capacities to defend freedom around the world, adding that the defense budget—even with the increases he will propose next year—was less than the budget for "human resources." Significantly, he mentioned Vietnam only once.

"Because of the beginnings that have been made," he said, "we can say today that this year 1972 can be the year in which America may make the greatest progress in 25 years toward achieving our goal of being at peace with all the nations of the world."

In this context, Mr. Nixon spoke briefly about his forthcoming trips to China and the Soviet Union. He said there were and would be great differences between the United States and the Communist world, but added:

"We would not be true to our obligation to generations yet unborn if we failed to seize this moment to do everything in our power to insure that we will be able to talk about those differences rather than to fight about them."

When Mr. Nixon spoke of the economy, he conceded some shortcomings and said the nation could do better than it had.

Mr. Nixon's announcement of a larger defense budget in the coming fiscal year beginning July 1 was not unexpected. He has been under pressure from the Pentagon to match Soviet expenditures in weapons research and development, he is seeking new bargaining tools at the Strategic Arms Limitation talks, and he has been heavily criticized by conservative Republicans for "falling behind" the Russians.

Democrats to Answer Nixon on TV Today

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 (AP)—Congressional Democrats plan to answer President Nixon's State of the Union address with a live televised phone-in program tomorrow. Five House members and four Senators will serve on the panel. Senator Thomas F. Eagleton of Missouri will be anchorman.

The two top House Democrats, Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma and the majority leader, Hale Boggs of Louisiana, will sum up at the end of the hour-long live program.

Besides Mr. Eagleton, Senators on the panel are Frank Church of Idaho, William Proxmire of Wisconsin and Lloyd M. Bentsen of Texas.

The Representatives are John Brademas of Indiana, Martha W. Griffiths of Michigan, John Meicher of Montana, Ralph H. Metcalfe of Illinois and Leonor K. Sullivan of Missouri.

The program will be carried by the American Broadcasting Company, Columbia Broadcasting System and National Broadcasting Company television networks and the non-commercial Public Broadcasting Service starting at noon.