

The GOP's Warm Tribute to Ike

Miami Beach

Republicans paid an affectionate tribute at the opening of their national convention yesterday to the late Dwight D. Eisenhower as a man who "represented the best in America."

And the delegates in the darkened hall cheered as the President's widow, Mamie, in a filmed talk, urged them to give President Nixon "the entire eight years."

A lifetime of Eisenhower - in - pictures was shown on the screen as Secretary of State William P. Rogers said of the soldier and President, "He could get angry, but he could not hate — but he was puzzled by those who could."

'GOOD'

"He was a strong man in the very deepest sense of the word, but he also was a good man," Rogers said. "He remains the most admired man in the world."

"As the world saw him, he also came from the heart of America. He represented the best of America."

Eisenhower died in 1969. He addressed the 1968 convention here by television after suffering the sixth in a series of heart attacks.

Mrs. Eisenhower spoke from their farm at Gettysburg, Pa., "where we spent so many happy hours."

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She recalled that the night before Mr. Nixon was nominated in 1968, "Ike called him to wish him good luck. He had tears in his eyes when he said, 'This is the last time I can call you Dick. Tomorrow it will be Mr. President.'"

Mrs. Eisenhower called Mrs. Nixon "a wonderful, warm, affectionate marvelous woman" and added: "I think you should be very proud to have her representing the distaff side of the family."

Her final words to the convention were: "Four years is not long enough to put together what he (the president) wants for the good of his country or to carry out

his campaign promise. He needs the entire eight years."

GOP Chairman Robert J. Dole introduced the tribute, saying: "We meet for the first time in 20 years without the wise counsel of Dwight D. Eisenhower."

Rogers, in turn, recalled that 20 years ago the Republican convention had nominated Eisenhower as its presidential candidate.

"Everybody had a button that said, 'I like Ike,'" Rogers said, "and Dwight Eisenhower showed up with his button that said 'I like Mamie.'"

When the 15-minute presentation ended, a television camera picked up David Eisenhower, Ike's grandson who is married to Julie Nixon. Young Eisenhower had tears in his eyes.

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AP Wirephoto

Scenes of Eisenhower's life were projected on a screen behind Secretary of State William Rogers at the podium