

NIXON BELITTLES M'GOVERN CHARGE

welfare and, today, on foreign policy.

The news conference today.

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**Says 'Responsible' Persons
Will Be 'Turned Off' by
Corruption Allegation**
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WASHINGTON, Oct. 5—Striking back after weeks of silence, President Nixon dismissed with calculated contempt today Senator George McGovern's charge that his Administration was the most corrupt and deceitful in history.

Mr. Nixon, who appeared before a news conference in his Oval Office this morning, addressed the corruption issue in measured and at times almost inaudible tones that seemed deliberately designed to contrast with what he suggested was the shrill and irresponsible campaign tactics of his opponent.

"I think the responsible members of the Democratic party will be turned off by this kind of campaigning," he said, "and I would suggest that responsible members of the press, following the single standard to which they are deeply devoted, will also be turned off by it." [Question 1, Page 28.]

The news conference was Mr. Nixon's first since Aug. 19, when he met newsmen in California. Whether by coincidence or by design, both news conferences have come on days when Mr. McGovern, the Democratic Presidential nominee, has been making major campaign statements, first on taxes and

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also followed mounting criticism in the press that Mr. Nixon's "Presidential" posture in this campaign had isolated him from the voters, as well as mounting worry within his own staff that some of Mr. McGovern's charges had too long gone unchallenged.

Accordingly, Mr. Nixon sought to cover a wide range of political and domestic issues. Among the points he made were the following:

¶He reaffirmed his intention to reduce property taxes without raising other taxes, disclosing for the first time that the first beneficiaries of such a plan would be elderly homeowners.

¶He insisted that he still supported the "principle" of a basic income guarantee for poor families and promised to make another attempt to achieve welfare reform if he won a second term. But he said that any new bill would include greatly strengthened work requirements.

¶He promised to push for antibusing laws in a second term, including, if necessary, a constitutional amendment, should Congress fail to enact legislation that conformed to his wishes in the remaining weeks before adjournment.

As for charges that he has been "hiding," Mr. Nixon suggested that he could better serve the voters not by campaigning among them but by remaining here to defend their economic interests, against "Congressional overspending."

But he also said that he

would be doing more personal campaigning after adjournment and would be addressing the issues in greater detail in a variety of settings, beginning with a radio address Saturday night on the subject of taxes.

The first question directed to the President dealt with Mr. McGovern's charges of moral softness in the Administration. Though Mr. Nixon kept saying that he found it beneath his dignity either to respond to or to characterize Mr. McGovern's charges, he did both — managing, in the process, a few quick shots at his opponent.