

President Urges Tribute For Veterans of Vietnam

OCT 23 1972

Nixon Praises Veterans of Vietnam in Speech

NYTimes

By LINDA CHARLTON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22

President Nixon, in his second nationwide radio speech of the weekend, built today on a Veterans Day theme to praise young Americans who have served in Vietnam and to detail his Administration's achievements in their behalf.

The President, who tomorrow will make a Veterans' Day campaign tour of Westchester County, laced his speech with occasional attacks on policies generally identified with his Democratic opponent, Senator George McGovern. But he held to the pattern he has set in public statements during the Presidential campaign of not naming the Democratic candidate.

He said that it was "more important than ever" to honor those who served in the armed forces "at a time when a small minority has tried to glorify the few who have refused to serve. . . ." and he stressed throughout his speech that "we can all be proud of those Americans who have served in Vietnam."

He spoke of what he had seen, he said, during his seven visits to Vietnam, both as a

Continued on Page 25, Column 1

McGovern Surprised by White House Question

By DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22

Senator George McGovern expressed surprise today

Nixon Calls On Nation to Honor Those Who Served in Vietnam

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

private citizen and while President. He said he had seen "young officers and enlisted men who have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars out of their own pockets to build schools and community centers and roads and orphanages for the people of South Vietnam," and who have given "hours of their free time teaching and helping" the Vietnamese.

He acknowledged that "the problem of drug abuse . . . has made itself felt in our armed forces," but added, "The vast majority of Vietnam veterans have come out of this war with a clean slate and a record of honor."

Mr. Nixon said that he would not "make a mockery of their [the veterans'] service by surrendering to the enemy, or by offering amnesty to draft dodgers and deserters."

Returning veterans, Mr. Nixon said, "deserve not only a welcome, but a job." The announced goal of placing a million veterans in jobs by June 30 of this year, he said, has been exceeded by 300,000 jobs, "and we are now working to provide jobs and training placements for another 1.3 million by next June. . . ." He urged employers to hire veterans, saying it "isn't just patriotic—it makes plain good business sense."

Then, moving from the specific into a more general mood, Mr. Nixon said: "Most of the challenges that we face as a

nation are bigger than party politics." He added that no challenge was greater than "keeping the peace in a dangerous world."

Repeating the phrase "keep America strong" three times in a few sentences, Mr. Nixon stressed that to do so was vital "if we are to continue making progress for peace. . . ."

Mr. Nixon continued: "Some of the voices we hear today calling for a weak America, for an isolationist America, are little more than echoes of past blunders." It was such "misguided thinking," he said, that "led an unprepared America into two world wars in this century. . . ."

Mr. Nixon broadcast the 12-minute speech from Camp David, Md., where he worked with his economic advisers during the weekend. It was broadcast live at 10:36 A.M.

Although the President had been expected to stay at his country retreat until tonight, he returned to Washington just after noon. According to the White House, he worked in his office in the Executive Office Building for much of the afternoon.

The President's two weekend nationwide radio broadcasts were the third and fourth of his campaign thus far. In yesterday's speech, Mr. Nixon pledged to "respect and reflect the opinion of the people themselves" in acting "on matters affecting basic human values, on the way Americans live their lives and bring up their children."