

President Pledges an End To 'Era of Permissiveness'

NYTimes NOV 10 1972
In Pre-Election Interview, He Said Nation Passed Through 'Spiritual Crisis'— Calls Vietnam 'Only Part of Problem'

Following is an account by Garnett D. Horner, White House correspondent of The Washington Star-News, of a pre-election interview he had with President Nixon. The interview took place last Sunday in San Clemente, Calif.

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 9—President Nixon, promising the American people the rigors of self-reliance instead of the soft life, says he hopes to use the second term to lead the nation out of a crisis of the spirit.

In an interview with The Star-News, the President vowed to work to end "the whole era of permissiveness" and to nurture "a new feeling of responsibility, a new feeling of self discipline."

"We have passed through a very great spiritual crisis in this country," he said. He added that the Vietnam war was "blamed for it totally" by many but he says the war was really "only part of the problem and in many cases was only an excuse rather than a reason."

With a puritan fervor he has seldom shown in public, Mr. Nixon seemed to be closing the door on a time in which he felt the nation had been pampered and indulged, leaving its character weakened.

"The average American," he said, "is just like the child in

the family. You give him some responsibility and he is going to amount to something. He is going to do something.

"If, on the other hand, you make him completely dependent and pamper him and cater to him too much, you are going

Text of Nixon's statements in interview, Page 20.

to make him soft, spoiled, and eventually a very weak individual."

In addition to setting the over-all tone for his next four years, the President dealt with a wide range of specific subjects. Some highlights:

¶Vietnam—He is "completely confident we are going to have a settlement" there. "You can bank on it."

¶Election—It was settled the day Senator George McGovern was nominated by the Democrats. Mr. McGovern's views "probably did not represent

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even a minority of the country."

¶Foreign Policy—The second round of arms limitations talks—SALT II—starting this month will be more important than SALT I. The Middle East "will have a very high priority." Our policy toward Cuba will not change unless Premier Fidel Castro changes his attitude.

¶Domestic Policy — He will "shuck off" and "trim down" the social programs set up in the 1960's that he considers massive failures largely because

they just "threw money at the problems."

¶Taxes—"There will be no solution of problems that require a tax increase." He is convinced that the tax burden of Americans has reached "the breaking point" and can go no higher.

¶The Courts—He intends to continue to appoint conservative judges. "The courts need men like Rehnquist and Burger and Blackmun and Powell."

¶His Aides — Some healthy "friction, competition" between Henry M. Kissinger and the State Department and John D. Ehrlichman and the domestic agencies is going to continue.

"That is the way it is going to have to be with them or their successors."

He had just come through a campaign, the President recalled, in which he "didn't go out with a whole bag full of goodies."

Not All 'Goodies'

And he made it clear that there will be few social goodies in his second Administration.

He singled out the Federal payroll as a prime target for his attention in the new term. He said that some departments are "too fat, too bloated," and that civilian Defense Department employees "are getting

in the way of each other."

His remedy: A thinning out all through the Government, including the White House.

Mr. Nixon noted suggestions that, no longer facing the problem of re-election, he might now be more free to advocate massive new social programs aimed at curing the nation's domestic ills.

"Nothing," he said, "could be further from the mark." He predicted, however, that the next four years would be an exciting period for Americans—on the international front because "we are going to continue to play a great role in the world" and domestically be-

cause of his determination to build a new national spirit.

He said that his general approach to the Presidency "is probably that of a Disraeli conservative — a strong foreign policy, strong adherence to basic values that the nation believes in and people believe in."

Repeatedly, during the conversation of nearly an hour last Sunday at his San Clemente office, the President indicated the conservative course — he called it basically centrist—he was charting for the next four years:

¶ "This country has enough on its plate in the way of huge new spending programs, social

programs, throwing dollars at problems . . . reform using money more effectively will be the mark of this Administration."

¶ "I honestly believe that Government in Washington is too big and is too expensive . . . we can do the job better with fewer people."

¶ "I am convinced that the total tax burden of the American people, Federal, state and local, has reached the breaking point. It can go no higher."

¶ "It is our responsibility to find a way to reform our Government institutions so that this new spirit of independence, self-reliance, pride

that I sense in the American people can be nurtured."

The President said his position was not "over on the far right" but "basically . . . simply in the center" in standing for a strong national defense, for peace with honor in Vietnam, against busing for racial balance, against permissiveness, against amnesty for draft and deserters, against legalizing marijuana.

Central Position

President Nixon spoke with deep feeling about his desire to "exert that kind of leadership" required to make all Americans proud of their country.

"I think that the tragedy of the '60's," he said, "is that so many Americans, and particularly so many young Americans, lost faith in their country, in the American system, in their country's foreign policy."

"Many were influenced to believe that they should be ashamed of our country's foreign policy, and what we were doing in the world."

"Many Americans got the impression that this was an ugly country, racist, not compassionate, and part of the reason for this was the tendency of some to take every mole that we had and to make it look like a cancer."