

President's Peace Move To Congress

Washington

In an apparent gesture of conciliation toward Congress, President Nixon met with Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield (Dem - Mont.) yesterday and substantially softened his earlier criticism of Congress' legislative record.

The President drew sharp Democratic criticism Wednesday when he charged Congress with "a very disappointing performance" so far this year.

Yesterday, in what appeared to be an effort to placate the lawmakers and open the way for a better relationship, Mr. Nixon breakfasted with Mansfield and sought to take the sting out of his Wednesday statement, according to Mansfield.

Mansfield said the president said that in expressing his disappointment Wednesday, "he wasn't referring to the over-all record of Congress, which he thought was quite good. He was thinking of (the fate of) his own specific proposals" on energy and other subjects.

The Democratic leader, who has been among the President's sharpest critics on the Vietnam war and many other issues, said he regards the President's comments to him yesterday as "an omen, a prelude to better and closer relations between Congress and the White House."

He said he regarded the President's remarks as definitely conveying the sense that the president wants to hold out the hand of conciliation to Congress.

The meeting between the two men was the first private breakfast meeting they have had in several months. Earlier in Mr. Nixon's term, the two customarily met for breakfast about once a month. Mansfield said, "He looked better than I've seen him in a long time. Better than I had anticipated. He didn't look well (over TV) in California, he looked better last Wednesday (over TV) and better still today."

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