

# An Inaugural Text For Mr. Nixon



**Arthur Hoppe**

## En Route to Washington

I'M RUSHING BACK to Washington with a text for Mr. Nixon's Second Inaugural Address. I'm not sure I'll be able to take his choked up tearful gratitude.

The way I look at it, Mr. Nixon always wants the best. And the best Second Inaugural Address ever given, historians agree, was Mr. Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address.

Of course, Mr. Nixon couldn't give Mr. Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address word for word. Every orator insists on delivering his speeches in his own style.

So I've simply inserted some of Mr. Nixon's words in between Mr. Lincoln's words to give the text the flavor of Mr. Nixon's comfortable style. And I've italicized Mr. Lincoln's words so Mr. Nixon would know whose words were whose.

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"HI, HI, THERE, my fellow Americans — my fellow countrymen.

*"At this second appearing to take the oath of the presidential office — and there's certainly no higher honor to which any American boy could aspire — there is less occasion, in my judgment, for an extended address — and by that I mean a long speech — than there was at the first, in my opinion.*

*"Now, at the expiration of four years — and, may I say, they have been four good years — during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phrase, for I have always felt strongly that my first duty as President, and Pat's, too, is to keep you fully informed, no matter what, the progress of our arms in our constant search for a just and lasting peace is as well known to the public, my fellow Americans, as to myself, or, to put it my way, me.*

*"And it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all, except, of course, those among us who have been encouraging the enemy to continue the war by their abject demands that we surrender and abandon our allies, which is their right, no matter how wrong they are. This is my judgment on that.*

*"I think I can say that fondly, I think I can even say fervently do we and, by that, I mean all decent Americans—hope and fervently, as I said before to you on this occasion, pray—now, by this, I don't mean in any way to cast aspersions of my fellow Americans who, for reasons of their own, don't pray — that this mighty scourge of war, just and necessary though it was in the defense of, in my opinion, freedom, may speedily pass away, which has always been my game plan and I've stuck to it.*

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"WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE—I

*have never, rightly or wrongly, held any malice toward anybody, no matter how vicious their attacks on me, on Pat, even on our little cocker spaniel—and charity toward all, including Senator Fulbright, with firmness in the right, which I have always been for, rightly or wrongly, as God, no matter what His race, creed or color, gives us to see the right, and with the support I hope of Congress and every decent American, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, towards which we've made tremendous progress these past four years, to bind up the nation's wounds, which were the result of the misguided spending and permissiveness of the previous administration, and to achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, Republicans and Democrats alike, and with all nations, which just about wraps up the whole ball game.*

*"And that's what I have to say about that."*