

# Nixon Calls U.S. 'Compromised'

NEW YORK, NOV. 17 (AP) — Former President Nixon says the United States is a "compromised country" that deeply needs to restore its pride in itself.

"We are so cynical, so disbelieving - it may take the shock of an invasion - in Korea or in Thailand," he said. "If American lives are threatened, we may regain our sense of belief in our country and our need for strength. We are a compromised country at the moment. The Communist countries don't need troops or military acts right now."

His remarks—his most extensive public statements since resigning during the Watergate scandal—were in a copyrighted interview in the December issue of the Ladies Home Journal. The interview was conducted by author-businessman William M. Fine last May at Nixon's home in San Clemente, California. There were no remarks about Watergate.

A spokesman for the magazine said Nixon was not paid for the interview, but that Nixon's office read it "and suggested a few changes. Some were made and some that had nothing to do with accuracy were not."

In the interview, Nixon said: "We have very little leadership in our country today. Can you name any strong religious leaders?... Anyhow, if the church and the media and business and

educators all allow the undermining of our strength and values, we will keep drifting that way - and our allies in the Far East won't put any belief in our commitments. I worry most about Japan."

Asked what he would do to counter this trend, he said: "That's a question I have puzzled over more than once. I think I would ask five or six of the best brains around me to go off on a retreat for several weeks and ponder some things - how we could make our people feel more pride, not be so concerned with Arab wealth. What's wrong with being the second-wealthiest country for a while? We, as a country, have to provide strength and leadership."

"... I'd work on a major television presentation to our people on the eve of our 200th birthday. Remind them that in 1776 we only had spiritual wealth, and look where it took us. We must rekindle that spiritual growth to knit our people together."

On his successor, President Ford, Nixon said: "He's okay. Right now, he is too accessible. A congress or a parliament can paralyze leadership. You can't get caught up in absurdities."

Fine said he told Nixon he believed the former President was at least "half of Henry Kissinger." Nixon responded: "How many people do you think understand that? It's true, of course."

Longer version of this story, one by NYTimes, and article in Ladies Home Journal - filed Watergate 18 Nov 75.