

# Nixon Returns — Global Talk In a Tiny Town

By Jo Thomas  
New York Times

Hyden, Ky.

Just outside a town so remote that most radio stations do not reach it, so tiny that it has a two-man police force and so poor that it could not pay its light bill last winter, Richard M. Nixon yesterday made an attack on the global dangers of Communism and rose to the defense of the military, the Central Intelligence Agency and the free enterprise system.

The former President came to Hyden for one of his first public appearances since his resignation, the dedication of the \$2.6 million, mostly federally financed Leslie County Recreation Center that is named in his honor.

In a speech to an audience of 4000 and some 2000 who were unable to get tickets to the gymnasium, he warned of "the threat of conquest without war," of "aggressors who go under borders, promise liberation and deliver dictatorships."

and he said of the United States that "no other nation in the world today has the power to save freedom, not only for ourselves but for others."

"At a time when aggressive dictatorships are stirring up covert and subversive action all over the world, the United States should strengthen our CIA to counter their activities," he said.

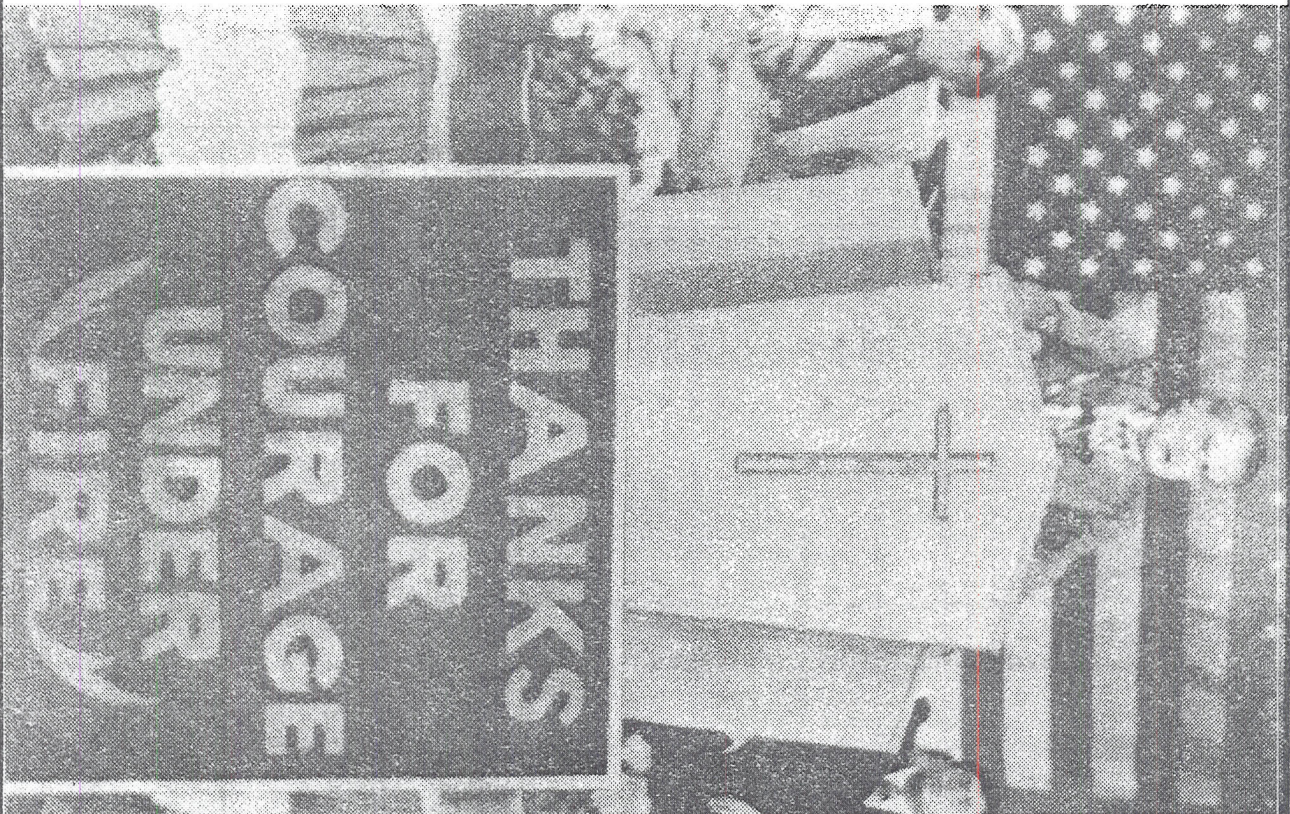
"When they are increasing aid to aggressive acts," he added, "the United States should increase its aid to counter them."

In a motorcade through town, he rode in a Cadillac convertible limousine built in

Back Page Col. 1

**Nixon broke nearly  
four years of silence  
with a crowd-  
pleasing speech**

AP Wirephoto



## From Page 1

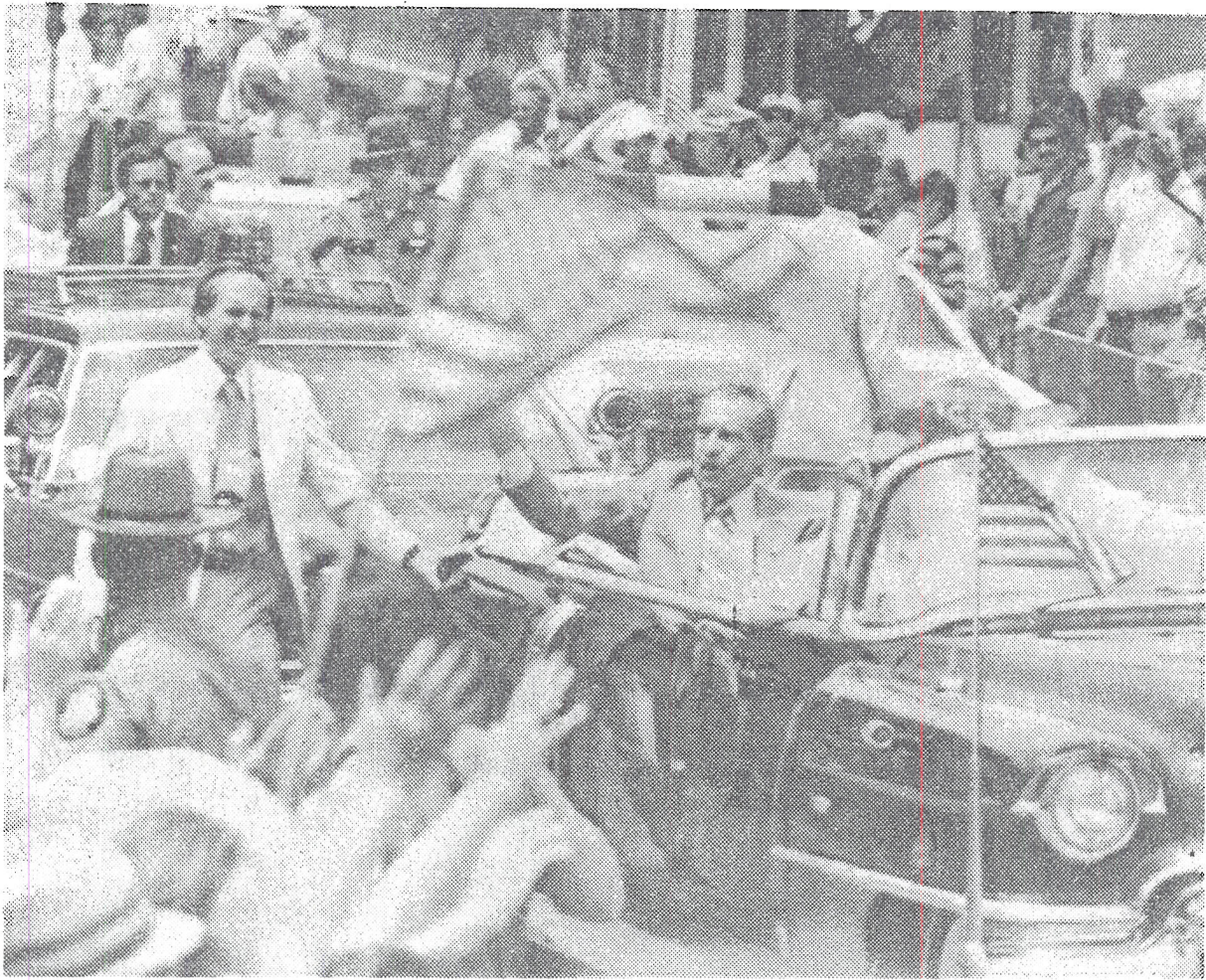
1956 for President Eisenhower, the same car in which Secret Service agents were riding behind President Kennedy in Dallas the day he was assassinated. A small white dog with "Richard" written on one side in red and "Nixon" on the other side was along the parade route, as were some 500 people who were unable to get tickets to the recreation center grounds.

Among them was Mrs. James H. Smith, who drove here from Calhoun, Ga., and found herself without a ticket or a hotel room. "We sat in the car and talked to the police," she said, explaining that she had come "because I love Richard Nixon. Even Watergate is not as bad as Park-gate, don't you think?"

It was a parade that may not be seen on the news by the American public; the driver of the dump truck in which cameramen for all three television networks were riding refused to wait for Nixon's limousine to catch up with him.

Tickets for the seats at the dedication ceremonies were given out by C. Allen Muncey, the Leslie county judge-executive, who first thought to invite Nixon to come to southeastern Kentucky for the ceremonies. Muncey is a Republican, as is most of Leslie county, which has not voted Democratic since the Civil War. The ticket holders, dressed in their Sunday best in the shimmering heat, were wildly enthusiastic.

On the platform were two former Kentucky governors, Demo-



AP Wirephoto

### Nixon waved to the crowd as he rode through Hyden, Kentucky

crat A. B. Chandler and Republican Louie B. Nunn, as was GOP Congressman Tim Lee Carter, who extended the invitation to Nixon.

A member of the Leslie County Centennial Commission, John Shol-

ly, said yesterday that the \$2.6 million recreation complex originally was to be named for Gerald Ford. Sholly, a Baptist preacher, said the castings already had been made naming the center for Nixon's successor when the commission received word that Ford would not be able to attend the dedication.

The decision to change the name in honor of Nixon was made about one month ago, he said.

Outside, about 2000 stood in the shade of straw hats and umbrellas and listened to the blurred sound of music, speeches and adulation piped over the loudspeakers. It was a crowd far smaller than the predictions, which ran as high as 30,000.

Despite the presence of more than 300 reporters, the dedication and the weekend's celebration remained mostly a local affair. On Saturday in front of the courthouse, residents sold Bibles and homemade quilts, fudge, soup beans with onions and cornbread. Yesterday they simply waited to catch a glimpse of the former President.

As the national anthem played indoors, soldiers from Fort Knox fired a 21-gun salute outdoors. The night before, residents had practiced this with dynamite on a nearby hill. In his speech, Nixon picked up the martial theme.

"Tough talk, when it isn't backed up with strong action, is just like an empty cannon," he said, adding that in arms limitations talks with the Soviet Union, "we must have as a bargaining chip some program they want us to limit."

"There has been some weakening of will among some leaders," he warned. His voice rang out, and he

seemed to be at ease, speaking without notes and only now and then twisting his hands and mopping his brow.

He drew cheers as he referred to his experiences as president in contending with crises in Vietnam and in the Middle East, and he urged that the nation "cool the public rhetoric and toughen up the private bargaining."

He drew wild applause after he said, "I believe in freedom of information, but I think it's time we quit making heroes of people who take secret foreign policy documents and print them in the newspapers."

It was a speech with echoes of the past, including the phrase "my fellow Americans" near the beginning and ending with "God bless America." The first song was "Dixie" and the last one the "Washington Post March." Then Nixon, looking only slightly tired, signed autographs and soaked up adulation.

One of those yelling Nixon's praises was Tom Brinton, who said that he was from De Kalb County, Ill., where he is a probation officer. "I believe in rehabilitation," he said. "I think he can come back and do a lot of good for us."

Brinton hesitated, then added, "I don't want him to run for president though."