Vixon Hits Security Leaks

By William Claiborne Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon denounced racy," Mr. Nixon urged, "If a the sources of government document is classified, keep it news leaks yesterday and chal. classified." news leaks yesterday and challenged the federal bureaucracy to adopt a "new sense of responsibility and dedication" hobbling in casts, appeared moved when Mr. Nixon recalled that prior to the peace agreement he had been

country to quit making national heroes of those who who steal secrets and publish them in newspapers," Mr. Nixon told an appreciative audience of nearly 600 returned American prisoners of war.

The President's comments during a State Department the President declared.
"briefing" of the returned "briefing" of the returned ex-prisoners' homecomi POWs did not include any reference to a special White House task force he created to made by some upon landing

'the plumbers," the task force Philippines. is under investigation for al-

But his forceful remarks on Nixon said. government confidentiality repeatedly returned to the theme that world peace is dependent on U.S. bargaihing strength, and the nation's barchering ex-prisoners by flash-

keeping secrets.

Mr. Nixon traced the government's role in maintaining secrecy throughout the sensitive stages of the Vietnam war a reception for the wives and the sensitive stages of the Vietnam war a reception for the wives and the sensitive stages of the Vietnam war a reception for the wives and the State and in preliminary talks with China and the Soviet Union, and he added, "Had we not had that kind of secrecy."

a reception for the wives and girl friends of the POWs on the eighth floor of the State Department.

Earlier in the day, the extension of the state of the power of the State Department.

White House, applauded For many, the occasion was warmly in response to the retthe first stateside reunion marks about national security, since the prisoners' repatria. But when Mr. Nixon refertion four months ago. red obliquely to the publica. As Navy whites, Air Force tion of the Pentagon Papers in blues and Army and Marine a sharply critical vein, the ext Corps greens blended together POWs rose spontaneously and in the crowded ballrooms, cheered loudly for nearly a shouts of recognition went up minute.

crets of America . . . "

POWS, From A1

"I think it is time in the agreement, he had been puntry to quit making no admonished: "Bring them home, but bring them home on their feet and not on their knees."

> "I can say to you, this is the most distinguished group I've ever addressed, and I've never been prouder of any group,"

The President alluded to the ex-prisoners' homecoming earcommanaying patriotic speeches stop news leaks. Known as made by some upon stop in the

"By what you did and what leged illegal domestic surveil-lance activities.

But his forceful remarks on built up America's faith," Mr.

Before and after his "well strength, and the nation's bargaining strength—in turn—is dependent on government officials who are responsible for keeping secrets.

Mr. Nixon traced the gov
water ownering ex-prisoners by flashing a "V" sign and the aviator's traditional "thumbs up."

Most of the returnees are Navy or Air Force pilots.

While the presidential brief-

you men would still be in Harnoi."

The returned prisoners, who with their wives later attended a gala banquet at the the Washington Hilton.

White House, applauded For Many the season

and happy friends embraced.

"We must have confidential "Hey Moose ... Hey, ity. We must have secret com Cowboy!" greetings were munications," Mr. Nixon said shouted from table to table, Echoing the national security and reminiscenes were exemphasis of his explanation of changed in an exclusive sort the Watergate scandal Tues of way about such places as day, the President added, "I'm the Hanoi Hilton, Heartbreak going to meet my responsibil- Hotel, the Zoo and other ity to protect the national se- North Vietnamese prison camps.

Addressing himself to Many former prisoners "everybody in the bureauctalked in excited anticipation of meeting the President in a reception line at the State De-

partment, and, later, of having Lt. Col. Kenneth North, an dinner at the White House. Air Force pilot from Cape A few, acknowledging weari- Cod, Mass., said he planned to ness from a seemingly contin- return home Friday. "I'm gouous round of homecoming ing to pull the beach over my events, talked of solitude. head and forget about these

shindigs for a while," North

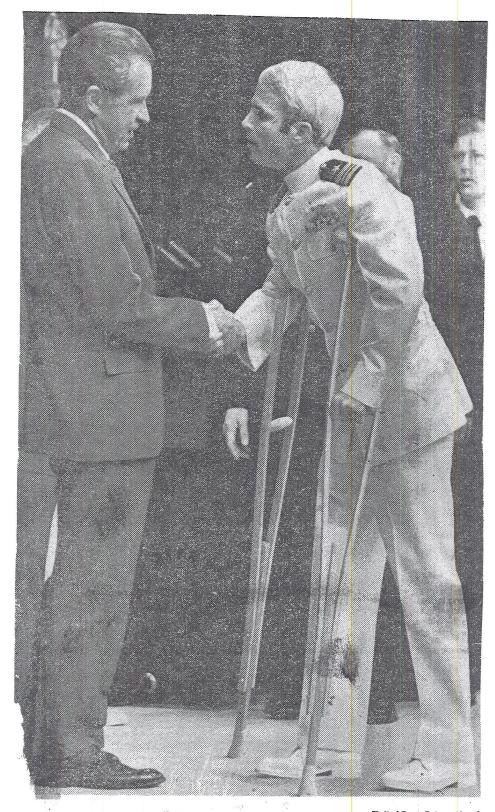
But the main event of the round of celebrations was the red, white and blue banquet and entertainment show last

night on the south lawn of the White House.

Billed by White House offi-cials as "the biggest sitdown dinner" ever held at the Executive Mansion, the affair was an unabashedly patriotic show dinnerware. featuring Hollywood celebrities, more than 200 bottles of even than the main portion of the White House itself.

The tent was erected several weeks ago for the nearly 1,300 guests. About 200 extra waiters were hired and a local caterer provided much of the

The menu--distinctly Ame:r ican fare-included roast sirchampagne and a huge red loin of beef au jus, cornstick s, and yellow striped tent larger potatoes, garden vegetables, potatoes, garden vegetables, and strawberry mousse The wines were from Califor



. Nixon greets Navy Lt. Cdr. John Mcin III, shot down near Hanoi in 1967, at State Department reception for former prisoners, most of them career aviators.



President Nixon flashes V for victory sign as he gets standing ovation from audience of ex-POWS assembled at State Department.

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