

# 1st Speech Reactions Unfavorable to Nixon

By United Press International

Early reaction from the electorate on President Nixon's Watergate speech ranged from "it's pathetic" and "it stinks" to expressions of faith in the President's sincerity and the belief Nixon did not have prior knowledge of the affair.

But initial returns running into hundreds indicated that the man in the street at the approximate rate of two to one was disenchanted by Nixon's speech in which he accepted the responsibility for Watergate and vowed there will be "no whitewash at the White House."

"I felt he was asking to be loved. It was pathetic," said Hollywood writer Gloria Goldsmith. "He was pleading for sympathy for his mistakes."

## 'It Stinks'

In Cranston, R.I., Mrs. William J. Chapman said:

"I think the whole thing stinks. How long can you go. We put people in there that we trust and what do they

do?" She said she thought Nixon "was in it from the beginning."

Their remarks were countered by others who appeared to be affected by the President's sincerity.

Joseph McCann of Columbus, Ohio, said, "I thought he made a very good talk. I believe he is an honest man and he spoke sincerely and honestly."

## 'Sincere'

The theme was repeated by Ralph Deatpis of Chicago. Deatpis said, "I thought it was very good. I thought he was sincere. I don't think he would goof up a nation."

The issue of "prior knowledge" also was very much in evidence in remarks by Nixon supporters who appeared to regard that as a key point in White House responsibility for Watergate.

Sonny Jones, National Guard technician from Clinton, Miss., said, "I feel like I would support him after this speech. I see where it would be possible for him not to

have prior knowledge."

In Warren, Mich., Gerald T. Franks, an assistant warehouse manager, said "He's the boss but I don't think he's responsible for the whole thing . . . He can't do everything at one time. He has to rely on subordinates."

## Students

Detractors tended to be more bitter about the speech with young persons, especially students, strongest in their condemnation.

John Koppenhoefer, 21, a student at the University of Chicago, said: "I thought it was an insult to my intelligence when he shifted from the domestic to the international." He said that Nixon asked to be forgiven Watergate but would not forgive war resisters.

Another University of Chicago student, David Scarborough, 22, said, "I find it typical of President Nixon . . . calculated to make the best impact . . . chiefly a piece of political rhetoric."