

Mr. Nixon Ends the War With Congress



Arthur Hoppe

MR. NIXON'S secret plan to end the long, frustrating war with Congress gradually became apparent in the spring of 1973.

For four years, Mr. Nixon had hit Congress with everything he had—saturation veto attacks, protective-retaliatory fund impoundments, and carpet bombing of Congressional programs.

Yet Congress, despite its primitive, backward social structure, continued to struggle on—aided by wiry, tough guerrilla fighters from the press, who set ambushes for Mr. Nixon and sniped constantly at his troops.

The turning point came with the abortive Watergate Raid. Seven administration troops were captured by the enemy and paraded triumphantly before news cameras. Some, under who knows what inducements, or torture, actually confessed publicly to war crimes.

Across the land there were demonstrations and even demands that Mr. Nixon unilaterally withdraw from the White House. Little did these faint hearts know their President.

"It would be politically easy for me to resign," said Mr. Nixon. "But it would be a cowardly thing to do. I will never abandon my allies in this struggle nor leave seven American and Cuban boys to rot in enemy prisons.

"For those who seek my resignation at any price, there is but one answer," he said, squaring his jaw. "I will settle for no less than resignation with honor."

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IT WAS THEN that Mr. Nixon unveiled his Secret Plan to end the war. The first step, of course, was the gradual withdrawal of American boys from the White House. By May, their numbers had been reduced by two-thirds. And General Haig

had been appointed to personally oversee the orderliness of the operation.

At the same time, Mr. Nixon put out peace feelers to the press and Congress. He had always liked the press, he said, and it was often right. As for Congress, he said he felt it certainly had a place in any future coalition government of the country.

Along with the carrot, Mr. Nixon, as was his custom, also held forth the stick—continuing vetoing, impounding and bombing the enemy.

More important, Mr. Nixon launched the now-famous secret negotiations. Dr. Henry Kissinger, who was believed to be in Paris with Jill St. John, was actually photographed in the White House Rose Garden, strolling with Senator Sam Ervin and three editors of the Washington Post. All, it was noted, were smiling.

At last the accords were signed. In return for Mr. Nixon's total withdrawal from the White House, all prisoners would be freed and the country would be governed by a coalition of Congress, the press and Spiro Agnew, until election could be held. (Fierce fighting immediately broke out among the three factions.)

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BUT, OH, what a glorious day it was when the prisoners returned home to be given free convertibles, lifetime passes to the Roller Derby and tickets to Disneyland.

Mr. Nixon hailed the occasion as a tremendous personal triumph. "By achieving resignation with honor," he said in his final address from the White House, "I have guaranteed that the people will now be able to determine their own future through genuinely free and honest elections."