

Cheers for Nixon In Illinois

Washington Post Service

Pekin, Ill.

President Nixon returned to middle America yesterday to honor the late Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen and to assert his faith that the American system is working.

Cheered by friendly crowds in this Republican stronghold, Mr. Nixon said in an apparent reference to Watergate that while many people are cynical about politics, "it would be a tragedy if we allowed the mistakes of a few to obscure the virtues of most."

"The system is working, and we can be proud of that system," the President told a crowd packed into the town square.

"Everett Dirksen would tell the cynics of the day not to shun the system — but to share in it, to enter the political arena and to fight for their ideals," the President said.

The President and Mrs.
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Nixon flew here to unveil the cornerstone of the Everett McKinley Dirksen Congressional Leadership Research Center.

Mrs. Dirksen introduced the President. Senator and Mrs. Howard H. Baker Jr. had accompanied the Nixons here on the presidential aircraft. Mrs. Baker is the Dirksens' only daughter.

In his brief remarks, Baker, a Tennessee Republican and vice chairman of the special Senate Watergate investigating committee, made no reference to Watergate.

RESPONSE

The President's speech was the first in some months that was not before a carefully screened audience, and the reception must have heartened him. As his motorcade passed through the

streets and surrounding countryside the crowds were large and friendly. *

There were only a handful of hostile placards: one said "Resign with Honor" and another said "Watergate — Nixon's the One."

But the overwhelming majority were friendly. One large sign in the town square said "America and

Nixon Are Great in Spite of Watergate."

FREEZE

Referring to his imposition this week of a price freeze, Mr. Nixon said that the purpose was to put a brake on rising prices in a way "not to throw our whole economy in a disastrous skid which will drive it off the highway."

Phase Four, which is to follow the 60-day freeze, "will be designed to get us out of a controlled economy, not pull us further into one," Mr. Nixon said.

"We must not destroy the freedom and flexibility that are the key to our prosperity," he added. "We must not control the boom in a way that will lead to a bust."

CONGRESS

Mr. Nixon also offered an olive branch to a hostile Congress, saying the executive and legislative arms of government must develop a spirit of give-and-take to realize that neither side "can have his way all the time."

"Now more than ever we need to foster between the

executive and the Congress a spirit of responsible partnership (that) must rest on the foundation of mutual respect between the executive and the legislature," the President said.

"We have fought hard for our positions," Mr. Nixon continued. "We will continue to fight for them. In fact we have a duty to fight vigorously for those things we believe in."

"It is our constitutional responsibility. But as we battle for our views, let us remember that we can accommodate our positions without abandoning our principles."

PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Nixon said if a position of responsible partnership is reached "then we will not regard our system of checks and balances as a source of frustration, but as an opportunity for consultation."

Congress and the President have been at odds on a variety of issues, including the impoundment of funds, Senate confirmation of presidential aides and the air war over Cambodia.

TEXT

Instead of speaking off the cuff, as he frequently does on such occasions, Mr. Nixon read from a prepared text, changing it occasionally as he went along.

At the end, he abandoned the text to speak extemporaneously about the importance he attaches to the visit next week of Soviet Com-

munist party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev.

While declaring that he would not make "any easy predictions" about the meeting with Brezhnev, the President said he is confident "the super-powers will make progress toward limiting the deadly burden of nuclear arms."

KISSINGER

After his speech, Mr. Nixon flew to Key Biscayne, Fla., for the weekend. National security adviser Henry A. Kissinger met him there to work with him today in preparations for next week's summit talks.

Kissinger is scheduled to leave Florida early tomorrow before the President to confer with Brezhnev at Camp David, Md. That conference will be late tomorrow, in advance of the official White House welcome for the Soviet leader Monday morning.

The President brought a number of Illinois congressmen here with him for the unveiling of the Dirksen library cornerstone.

In addition, the President was accompanied by Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield (Dem - Mont.), Senate minority leader Hugh Scott (Rep - Pa.), Senators James O. Eastland (Dem - Miss.), Adlai E. Stevenson (Dem - Ill.) and Charles H. Percy (Rep - Ill.).

PERCY

Percy told reporters after the trip that he and Mr. Nix-

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AP Wirephoto

SEN. HOWARD BAKER, HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW, MRS. EVERETT DIRKSEN, AND MR. NIXON
All three were at the dedication of the Dirksen Congressional Leadership Research Center

on settled their differences over a resolution Percy introduced in the Senate recently calling for the appointment of a special Watergate prosecutor.

At the time, the President was widely quoted as saying

to his Cabinet that Percy was motivated by presidential ambition but would never get the party's nomination while Mr. Nixon had anything to say about it.

"It's all been cleared up now," Percy said after talking with the President on the aircraft. The President fully understands what Percy was trying to do, the senator said.