

# Nixon's Fighting Speech Draws Realtors' Cheers

Washington

President Nixon told a cheering audience of realtors yesterday that he has "not violated his trust," has no intention of resigning and is proud of many accomplishments at home and abroad this year.

Some 3000 members of the National Association of Realtors gave him a standing ovation when he defended his Watergate role. He was frequently interrupted by applause from the sympathetic audience that packed a ballroom at the Sheraton Park hotel here.

The speech was the first of four the President has scheduled in the next few days in the wake of a week-long series of meetings with all House and Senate Republicans and with selected Democrats to answer Watergate questions.

He has scheduled a televised question-and-answer session with Associated Press Managing Editors in Orlando, Fla., tomorrow evening, when he will have an opportunity to produce evidence in his defense.

He will speak Sunday in Macon, Ga., at observances of the 100th anniversary of the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University and the 90th birthday of former Democratic Representative Carl M. Vinson, onetime chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

On Tuesday, the President will meet with Republican governors in Memphis, then return to Washington for the remainder of the Thanksgiving week.

Because the White House had said the President intended to meet Watergate charges "head-on," and because he apparently has convinced many congressmen that he is on the offensive, there had been much speculation about what the

President would tell the realtors.

However, it was mainly a campaign-type review of the year's events, with only a minute devoted to charges

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of scandal, and an emphasis on the energy crisis.

BUILDING

Emphasizing his devotion to working for peace, building a strong economy and fighting inflation, he said: "I am not going to walk away until I get that job done."

In his reference to Watergate and other campaign abuses, the President blamed the mistakes on "overzealous" associates.

They made "mistakes that I never approved of, mistakes that I would never have tolerated, but mistakes for which I will have to take the responsibility," he said.

However, he said that he would not resign regardless of what "some of my good-intentioned friends — an apparent reference to Republican critics — and "honest opponents" — apparently Democrats — might say.

In a reference to criticisms about his personal fi-

nances, Mr. Nixon said "All I own in the world is in real estate." In 1968, he said, he sold what stocks he owned and his New York apartment and bought the homes he now owns in California and Florida.

The President emphasized his reluctance to impose gasoline rationing when he urged "cooperation voluntarily" in conserving energy.

If "everybody sacrifices a little . . . no one then will have to suffer at all," he said.

VISIT

Ticking off what he called "major accomplishments" of the year, the President said the Middle East cease-fire has laid the basis for negotiations to build a permanent peace "in this troublespot of the world."

He said that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's

visit this week to Peking was more successful than earlier ones and "went very well considering the state of our relationships."

On the domestic front, Mr. Nixon claimed the lowest level of unemployment in peacetime in 18 years.

The energy shortage, however, was serious before the Arab oil cutoff that followed last month's fighting, he said, and now it has reached "a crisis as a result of the Mideast."

Even should the cutoff be raised "we have already lost six weeks of oil from the Mideast," he said.

The nation must find a way to make coal a cleaner fuel, and it must de-regulate the price of natural gas in order to encourage more production, the President argued.

"It doesn't make any sense to keep the gas in the ground at a time that people in New England are going around cold," he said.

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President Nixon addressed the realtors' convention beneath a huge, lighted version of the American flag