

# Nixon Hailed By Realtors On '73 Gains

By Carroll Kilpatrick  
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President Nixon told a cheering audience of realtors yesterday that he has "not violated his trust" and is proud of many accomplishments at home and abroad this year.

Some 3,000 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.

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.

While he had been expected to deal more explicitly in his speech with charges of scandal, he devoted only about a minute to the issue in his half-hour address and broke no new ground.

Mr. Nixon has scheduled a televised question-and-answer session with Associated Press managing editors in Orlando, Fla., Saturday evening when he will have an opportunity to produce evidence in his defense. The exact time has not been announced.

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 Rep. Carl M. Vinson, onetime chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

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

In his speech, the President announced that he would sign the trans-Alaska oil pipeline bill even though it contains provisions he will ask Congress to change later. The bill signing is to take place today.

Later in the day, Mr.

Nixon will fly to Key Biscayne, Fla., to prepare for his three public meetings.

The White House said that the President's plane, which normally flies at 525 miles per hour, will reduce speed to 475 miles per hour. This will cut fuel consumption from 2,200 gallons per hour to 2,000 gallons, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said. The flight to Key Biscayne takes about two hours.

Warren said that the fuel the President saves by flying slower will be like a "teaspoon out of Lake Michigan."

However, "if everyone reduces speeds and takes conservation seriously it won't go dry," Warren said.

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 See **PRESIDENT, A12, Col. 7**

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campaign-type review of the year's events, with little attention to charges of scandal, and an emphasis on the energy crisis. The President repeated his earlier declaration that he has no intention of resigning.

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 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 finances, 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.

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 troubled spot 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."

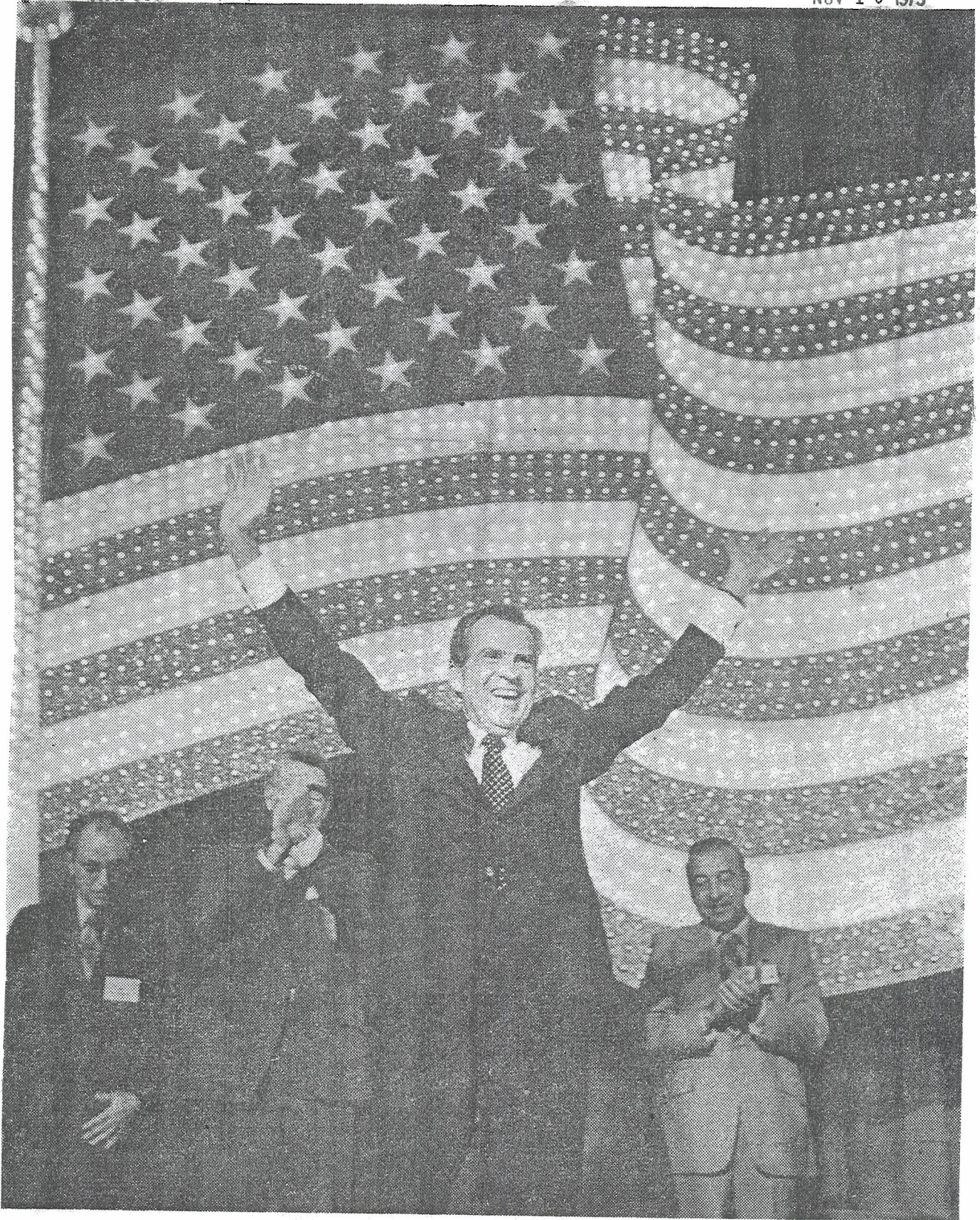
On the domestic front, Mr. Nixon claimed the lowest level of unemployment in peacetime in 18 years.

The energy shortage, however, was serious before the Arab 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 ended, "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.



President Nixon responds to applause during introduction to National Association of Realtors meeting. By Harry Naltchayan—The Washington Post