

# Nixon Says the Energy Crisis Is

## Tells Seafarers' Parley That He'll 'Stay at Helm'

By R. W. APPLE Jr.  
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 26 — President Nixon predicted today that the energy crisis in the United States would probably not last for much more than a year if international developments were favorable.

In a rambling, gesture-filled speech to the biennial convention here of the Seafarers International Union, the President restated his goal of making the nation self-sufficient in energy by 1980, so that no other nation "can cut our lifeline."

Mr. Nixon punctuated his talk, which was delivered without notes, with nautical metaphors and gestures, grasping an imaginary ship's wheel and pantomiming a seasick sailor.

At the very end of his remarks to the 400 union delegates, who received him warmly if not effusively, the President turned to the Watergate case.

"It is the captain's job to bring that ship into port," Mr. Nixon declared, "and I can assure you that you don't need to worry about my getting sea-

pretty. If you come home a little late, around two or three in the morning, you may get in the wrong door, but who knows, there might be somebody interesting behind that door."

Mr. Nixon's appearance before the Seafarers coincided with a report, published this morning in Time magazine, that the Watergate special prosecutor was investigating the union's \$100,000 contribution to the President's 1972 campaign.

The magazine said that the contribution had been reported after three months instead of after 48 hours, as required by law. And it said that the union had borrowed \$100,000 from the Chemical Bank of New York on the same day that it made the contribution, which should not have been necessary, if the donation had come from voluntary contributions from members, as the law requires.

### Case Was Dropped

The Nixon Administration was prepared in 1970 to prosecute the Union's president, Paul Hall, and seven other officials for alleged violation of the Corrupt Practices Act, but the case was dropped. Last month, Mr. Hall was the only member of the 35-member Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations to resist a resolution calling for the President's impeachment.

After Mr. Nixon returned to the White House this morning, the deputy press secretary, Gerald L. Warren, said in response to a question that Mr. Nixon would underline his suggestion that Americans spend "a little more time at home" by reducing his own weekend travel to his various homes and retreats.

"I think he will be spending more time around here," Mr. Warren asserted.

On Capitol Hill, meantime, the President's energy message was tepidly received. The consensus among Republicans and Democrats was that it constituted a constructive first step that did not go nearly far enough.

Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, the majority leader, said that the Administration should start printing gasoline rationing coupons at once against the day when rationing would be required. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the minority leader, conceded that rationing might be needed eventually but urged that the President's program "be given a fair chance to work out."

Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat, of Washington, chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, said that the Administration had not "thought through" the entire problem.

### Other Energy News

Additional articles on energy appear on following pages of this part of the newspaper and in Financial/Business, starting on Page 57.

sick or jumping ship. I am going to stay at that helm until we bring it into port."

His remarks about the probable duration of the energy pinch surprised some close observers of that situation, since Mr. Nixon's advisers on energy—such as John A. Love and Rogers C. B. Morton—have been trying to put across the idea that even a resumption of Arab oil shipments would not eliminate the crisis.

"We have a temporary problem, a problem that is going to exist for this year, perhaps somewhat longer," Mr. Nixon told the Seafarers group at the Statler-Hilton Hotel. "We trust not much longer, depending upon what happens in the international scene."

The President also retraced for the union leaders the steps that he had proposed last night in his latest nationally televised energy message. He assured them that "our goal is not to go back, but to go forward."

Twice Mr. Nixon cracked jokes in attempting to convince his audience that his energy conservation measures would cause no real hardship.

Driving, he said, would take a little longer, which would mean a lengthier "trip to see your mother-in-law." Perhaps, he ventured, "you wouldn't mind taking a little longer."

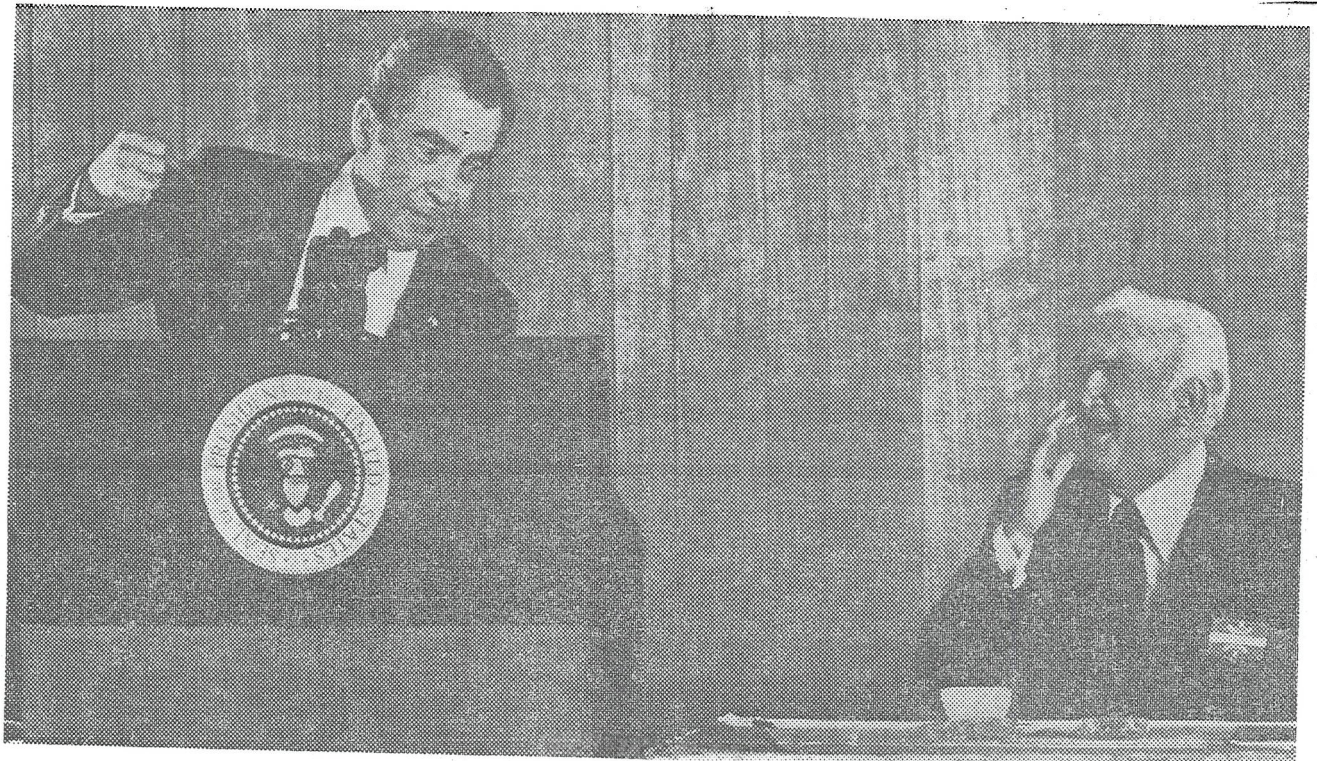
At another point, discussing his ban on ornamental lights, the President said:

"It is not going to be as

Temporary and Will Probab

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President Nixon telling the convention of Seafarers International Union that he would not "jump ship," but would remain at the helm. At right is Paul Hall, president of the union. The scene is in Washington. United Press International