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Transcript of Nixon's Watergate View

Following is a transcript of President Nixon's remarks on Watergate, delivered Wednesday night at the conclusion of his State of the Union Message, as recorded by The New York Times:

Mr. Speaker, and Mr. President and my distinguished colleagues and our guests, I would like to add a personal word with regard to an issue that has been of great concern to all Americans over the past year.

I refer, of course, to the investigations of the so-called Watergate affair.

As you know, I have provided to the special prosecutor voluntarily a great deal of material.

I believe that I have provided all the material that he needs to conclude his investigations and to proceed to prosecute the guilty and to clear the innocent.

I believe the time has come to bring that investigation and the other investigations of this matter to an end. One year of Watergate is enough.

And the time has come, my colleagues, for not only the executive, the President, but the members of Congress, for all of us to join together in devoting our full

energies to these great issues that I have discussed tonight which involve the welfare of all the American people in so many different ways as well as the peace of the world.

Plans to Cooperate

I recognize that the House Judiciary Committee has a special responsibility in this area, and I want to indicate on this occasion that I will cooperate with the Judiciary Committee in its investigation.

I will cooperate so that it can conclude its investigation, make its decision and I will cooperate in any way that I consider consistent with my responsibilities for the office of the Presidency of the United States.

There is only one limitation: I will follow the precedent that has been followed by and defended by every President from George Washington to Lyndon B. Johnson of never doing anything that weakens the office of the President of the United States or impairs the ability of the Presidents of the future to make the great decisions that are so essential to this nation and the world.

Another point I should like to make very briefly. Like every member of the House and Senate assembled here

tonight, I was elected to the office that I hold. And like every member of the House and Senate, when I was elected to that office I knew that I was elected for the purpose of doing a job, and doing it as well as I can possibly can.

And I want you to know that I have no intention whatever of ever walking away from the job that the people elected me to do for the people of the United States!

Now needless to say, it would be understatement if I were not to admit that the year 1973 was not a very easy year for me or personally or for my family. And as I've already indicated, the year 1974 presents very great and serious problems as very great and serious opportunities are also presented.

But my colleagues, this I believe: With the help of God who has blessed this land so richly, with the cooperation of the Congress and with the support of the American people, we can and we will make the year 1974 a year of unprecedented progress toward our goal, of building a structure of lasting peace in the world and a new prosperity without war in the United States of America.