

A GOP Attack

On the Attackers

By Frederick B. Dent

The following is excerpted from an address by Commerce Secretary Dent before a "Support Our President" rally in Los Angeles on Dec. 15. It is one of similar defenses of the President being distributed by the Republican Party.

THERE WAS ANOTHER President, a tall man in a stovepipe hat who also happened to be a Republican.

He was subjected to the most savage and vitriolic attacks. He was called an "ape" and a "mole-eyed" monster. He was villified as being "corrupt." He was openly charged with being a "dictator" and with being "shattered, dazed, utterly foolish."

But Abraham Lincoln never wavered for a moment in his determination to do the job he was elected to do: to save the Union!

I can assure you that Richard Nixon will never waver for a moment in his determination to do the job that he was elected to do: to advance the cause of world peace! I personally heard him say so no later than last Tuesday.

His enemies abuse him. They call him names. They try to discredit everything he does. They try to blacken his motives. They lampoon him. They hammer at him day after day unceasingly, without letup. They try to arouse mob instincts. They preach hate. They preach division.

But all they do is shame America! They shame the goodness, the glory and the pride of the greatest republic that ever existed!

Through it all, our President stands steadfast! He does not give a single inch!

WE CAN SEE the price being paid by our friends in Great Britain for disunity—virtually self-immolation of their enemy. Let's learn a lesson this time not from history, but from respected neighbors.

Certainly nobody is fooled as to who are the leaders of this attack on our President: They are the political jackals who worked tooth and claw to defeat him in 1972, and are now trying to reverse the decision of 45 million American voters. They are the people who would violate the sanctity of the ballot box, who would subvert the democratic electoral process, and who are unwilling to live by the American tradition that once the ballots are counted we join to-

gether in support of our duly-elected officials.

So I want to warn these misguided political partisans. They obviously do not know it, but the American people can take just so much. When their innate sense of fair play tells them that these vile attacks on our President have gone too far there is going to be an outpouring of support for him such as this nation has rarely seen.

As for the impeachment process that has been launched in the House Judiciary Committee, let it go forward. Let the evidence be presented. Let us get a decision. Let the issue be settled.

But let's get on with it now. Let's stop the foot-dragging.

We have important business in this country to attend to. We do not want this issue hanging over unresolved.

The American people know what President Nixon has done in the past. They know what he can and will do in the future.

IN MY JUDGMENT, the American people will not succumb to those who seek the destruction of the President and the presidency. The mandate of November, 1972, was a valid expression of the public will. That mandate of the people expressed at the ballot box was:

- For peace, but not retreat;
- For a strong defense, not incapacitating weakness;
- For fiscal responsibility, not wasteful spending;
- For a limit on taxes and the flow of power to Washington, not higher taxes and the centralization of decision-making in our nation's capital.

The American people will not allow that mandate to be subverted by those who opposed it.

No one overturns the ballot box—no military leader, no group of newsmen and no set of disappointed politicians under our system have the right to drive an elected official out of office.

Let us beware that our generation is not the first to violate this sound constitutional principle.