

Nixon Ignores Miami Hecklers

Miami

President Nixon, in his first public appearance outside Washington in nearly three months, dedicated a new private health care center yesterday speaking over the chants of hecklers demanding "impeach Nixon Now."

Looking tanned and smiling the President spoke extemporaneously for about 25 minutes, praising the U.S. "great private health care system" as "the best in the world" and promising to improve it with the health insurance legislation he has proposed.

Several hundred invited guests seated in front of the speaker's platform outside the Cedars of Lebanon hospital applauded and held pro-Nixon signs aloft, providing a physical buffer between Mr. Nixon and the hecklers, who stood behind ropes in the street holding

The chanting started as the President spoke and went on intermittently through his speech. Mr. Nixon did not appear to look at the hecklers or their signs but instead concentrated on the first few rows of his audience and did not pause at any point as the impeachment calls continued.

Once, about halfway through his informal talk, several persons sitting in the invited guests section rose and held up anti-Nixon signs. Two of the men wore white hospital coats and one sign read "resign with honor" and another "even Freud could not help Nixon." Others in the crowd tried to snatch the signs away and in a few seconds all sat down.

Many in the crowd wrote pro-Nixon slogans, like "one year of Watergate is enough" and "hang in there, Mr. Nixon," on the backs of

their dedication programs and held them up.

The only time the President stopped in his talk was when a photographer from a Cuban publication shouted to him from the press section to support the Cuban people. He smiled and waved at the man, then continued.

The speech was a very generalized recitation of an old Nixon theme espousing private initiative in the health care field. "I simply want to say when I go to a hospital," he said, "or when I have to call a doctor, I want that doctor to be working for the patient and not for the federal government, and that is what this is all about."

He praised Miamians for their contributions to the new \$73 million facility and said:

"You know there was an easier way, and that gets back to whether it should be all government or whether it should be built on the great

private health care system that we have in this country.

The easier way's just to increase the taxes, throw the private health care system out and let the government do it all."

Before the speech President and Mrs. Nixon toured the new health care center with Sanford K. Bronstein, president of the hospital, and Harry Hochstadt, executive vice president. At a patient registration area, Gilda Vinnas, 22, a Cuban exile, showed him how patient identification cards were handled automatically to avoid mistakes. "Instead of taking off the wrong leg," he joked, "they take off the right leg."

After the speech, President and Mrs. Nixon moved along the front row of the invited guests, shaking hands and chatting. He stopped to talk with a group of Cuban-Americans who held signs

saying "viva Nixon" and shouted encouragement to him.

Security men stood on all rooftops surrounding the plaza in which the President spoke as well as in the still skeletal structure of a new hospital wing to his left. The hecklers included representatives of local AFL-CIO and migrant farm worker organizations and of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler said the President had spent the morning in his office on staff matters and would return after the speech for more of the same. His next public appearance is scheduled for Monday, when he is to speak at an "Honor America Day" observance in Huntsville, Ala., along with Governor George C. Wallace of Alabama.

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