

Nixon Gets Big Hand in Mississippi

Jackson, Miss.

President Nixon received rousing applause from 10,000 and words of comfort from the Democratic governor of Mississippi yesterday when he delivered a speech promising peace and prosperity for a generation.

It was the largest and most enthusiastic public reception Mr. Nixon has received in his public campaign against impeachment.

In addition to the crowd in the Mississippi Coliseum, several thousand who were turned away stood outside in the bright sunlight and greeted President and Mrs. Nixon when they arrived.

Seated on the stage behind the President as he spoke were the two Mississippi senators whose votes and influence could be crucial to Mr. Nixon should the House of Representatives vote for impeachment and the case go to the Senate for trial — James O. Eastland, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and John C. Stennis, chairman of the Armed Forces Committee and one of the most influential men in Congress.

The enthusiastic welcome was expected.

In 1972, Mississippi gave Mr. Nixon the largest margin of support of any state, 78 per cent.

A popular view here is that the President is being persecuted by liberal Democrats and the press.

Mr. Nixon's 40-minute speech was before the annual convention of the Mississippi Economic Council-State Chamber of Commerce.

The council moved its luncheon to the coliseum and provided free tickets for several thousand.

The President was greeted by applause on entering the hall, and Governor William L. Waller whipped up enthusiasm in a glowing introduction.

He reminded the audience that "two of our greatest presidents," Lincoln and Truman, had been unpopular and he urged the audience to "get behind the President and get this nation moving."

The President's speech was largely one that has become standard in his current campaign. Predicting an upturn in the economy, Mr. Nixon said:

"I see the year '74, at the end — and now it is very difficult for us to look that far ahead — but at the end we will look back and say 1974 was not our best year, as were '72 and '73, but it was a good year. I will say, and I will flatly predict that '75 will be a very good year and I say today that '76, the 200th anniversary year for America, will be the best year in America's history, the most prosperous, the most free."

New York Times