

WXPost APR 26 1974
**Nixon Seeks,
Gets Support
In Mississippi**

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JACKSON, Miss., April 25— Surrounded by 12,000 friendly Mississippians, President Nixon today gave an inspirational sermon on the American spirit and the promise of better days ahead.

"A day will come," Mr. Nixon said, his hand aloft. "I can see it now, 25 years from now, a President of the United States, I trust, may be standing in this very place... he will look back to this critical generation of ours and he will say: 'They did not fail when the going was very difficult and American leadership was so important to the world.'"

The throng jammed inside Mississippi's fairgrounds coliseum stood and cheered along with several thousand more listening by loudspeaker outside. Their Democratic governor, William Waller, asked rhetorically: "Do you believe he's in a friendly place right now?" The answer was another affirmative ovation from the audience.

The President's speech made no reference to his troubles back in Washington, the subpoena from the House Judiciary Committee or the impeachment investigation it is conducting. But his appearance in Jackson was clearly another campaign stop in Mr. Nixon's struggle to avoid ouster as Chief Executive. It was, like other recent speeches, an appeal for popular support in his time of peril. "An American President," he said, "must have the backing of a strong and united people."

Waller spoke more directly to local sentiments about the President and impeachment while he was chatting with reporters at the Jackson airport, waiting for "The Spirit of '76" to land with Mr. and Mrs. Nixon and their party.

"In order to have a friend," Waller said, "you have to be a friend. President Nixon has been a good friend and I believe the people of Mississippi are responding to that."

What do the people of Mississippi think of the impeachment inquiry?

"There are two things to say," the governor replied. "A man is innocent until proven

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guilty and there are always errors made by people who are trying to do something. We live by and believe in a forgiving spirit of justice."

The governor's generous attitude toward the President was reflected too in the crowds along the highway and at the hall, as they waved a few flags and posters to salute the Nixon motorcade. "We Love You and We Pray for You," said the sign held by a young mother with her three children. "Nixon Now More Than Ever," said another, echoing the President's campaign slogan of 1972.

Mississippians gave him 78 per cent of their votes in that election and, by the governor's judgment, this is one state where the sentiment hasn't turned against him, thanks partly to Nixon administration aid to hurricane and flood victims.

There was one modest sized group of dissenters outside the hall, waving anti-Nixon signs such as "You Can't Hide Behind a Religion" and "Impeachment Now."

Inside the coliseum, the President's speech was interrupted by applause more than a dozen times, especially when he praised the state university band, quarterback Archie Manning who starred at Ole Miss, and the Mississippi congressional delegation. Democratic Sen. John Stennis and James Eastland and three of the five congressmen flew with him aboard the presidential plane. Rep. James Whitton, who was holding a subcommittee hearing, and Rep. Tom Lott, who wanted to stay in the capital for a Judiciary Committee meeting, were absent.

When the governor introduced him, Mr. Nixon and his wife beamed at the packed hall as he expressed with standing ovations what Waller called "The love which we have for you and for the office which you hold."

"We say to the people of the nation that are listening," Waller concluded, "that we believe we ought to get together and get behind the President and get this nation moving."

In his speech, Mr. Nixon acknowledged that the nation's economy is not moving at the moment, but he asserted that the first-quarter slump is already leveling off and that output will return to normal growth and prosperity in the third and fourth quarters of the year. He was addressing a luncheon of the Mississippi Economic Council, but the audience included thousands of students and others.

The President said that he would make recommendations within two weeks in an administration plan to stimulate the housing industry, one of the key components in the first-quarter decline.

The auto industry, also down in the first quarter, is heading toward a good year, the President said, "not the best, but a good one."

Notwithstanding calls for a tax cut and extended wage-and-price controls by Democrats in Congress, the President said, the solution to inflation is more production and a hold-down on government spending. Aboard the President's jet en route to Jackson, presidential adviser Dean Burch told reporters that the Senate Democratic Caucus's declaration that the President should be given standby authority to renew controls "smacks of partisan politics."

The President said inflation is not going to be solved by putting this economy under the strait-jacket of government control from Washington, D.C. That would be an awfully easy answer for a President to give. But we have tried that way, not only in this administration and others, and it works for a time, but in the end we pay a bigger price in higher prices.

Overall, the President saw hopeful signs of increased production in agriculture and other fields, enough to convince him that 1974 will finish as a good year.

"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," he said. "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."



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Mr. Nixon in Jackson: "An American President must have the backing of a strong and united people."



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President and Mrs. Nixon receiving a warm greeting on their arrival in Jackson, Miss.