

Richard Nixon - a man for our time

Senator Hiram L. Fong Papers

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Nixon as President

1. Nixon will be a dynamic President who believes in fixing attainable goals. His administration will be short on promises of more giveaway programs and long on efforts to bring more order into government spending, government operations, and race relations. He will lead and not rule by "consensus."

2. He is basically a "moderate" in his political philosophy. Policies as well as programs that are considered "practical" will appeal to him--radical ideas and new theories will not be in favor either at the White House or in Congress.

3. In short, Nixon's approach to ~~the~~ the problems of today will be more realistic, sound, and practical than Humphrey's would have been.

Results of the 1968 Election

Governors

The Republicans scored impressive gains in the 1968 Governorship races--laying the groundwork for more effective grassroots political power.

a. They took 7 governorships from the Democrats while losing only 2--a net gain of 5.

b. Republicans will have 31 Governors--the largest number since the Harding landslide of 1920 when they had 34.

c. Nine of the eleven top States in population are headed by Republican Governors-- only Texas and New Jersey of the top 11 have Democratic Governors.

Senate

Of the 34 Senate seats that were at stake, the Democrats won 18 and the Republicans 16.

The Republicans took 7 seats from the Democrats while losing 2--a net ~~gain~~ gain of 5 seats.

When the 91st Congress meets on January 3, the Senate lineup will be 58 Democrats and 42 Republicans. This composition of the ~~Senate~~ Senate will be somewhat more conservative in political philosophy. ~~than the~~ The past election saw the defeat or retirement of many well known moderates and liberals. Among the victims were California's Thomas Kuchel, Oklahoma's Mike Monroney, Oregon's Wayne Morse, Pennsylvania's Joseph Clark, Maryland's Daniel Brewster, and Kentucky's ~~Flax~~ Thruston Morton.

One could safely say that most of the new Senators that were elected to the 91st Congress are, in varying degrees, more "conservative" than their predecessors. Leading the stars of the class of 1969 will be Barry Goldwater--titular head of American Conservatism.

The Democrats will retain control of the machinery and leadership of both the House and Senate by virtue of their numerical majority. However, a coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats is readily acknowledged--thus denying the Democratic Party of a working majority on certain issues.

Consequently, on some of the important policies of the Nixon Administration, a favorable ~~majority~~ majority will be temporarily formed in both Houses of Congress. Most members have veered in recent years from what are termed "radical" or "leftwing" trends and have sensed that public opinion today favors a conservative type of liberalism. This "majority" will take cognizance of fiscal soundness, and will vote only for those expenditures that are imperatively needed to help solve sociological problems.

So when makeshift majorities decide crucial issues in the House and

the Senate, how can it be said that either party really "controls" Congress?

We face a situation in which neither party "controls" a majority, yet all the committee chairmanships go to Democrats. Seniority of service ~~instead of~~ instead of ~~individual~~ individual qualifications is the customary criterion.

With the Republican gains in the Senate, your position for membership on another prestigious committee (Foreign Relations or Appropriations) has been greatly enhanced.

You will be ranking minority member on Post Office and Civil Service Committee; second ranking minority member on Public Works Committee; third ranking minority member on Judiciary Committee.

91st Congress

This will be the second time in 120 years that a newly elected President must face a Congress in which both the House and Senate are controlled by the opposition.

The next Congress will be much more independent ~~of the~~ of the White House--much more likely to pursue its own course and to make its own decisions.

On money matters the 91st Congress will be more "conservative" and prudent.

What Can We Expect From the Nixon Administration

Foreign Affairs

1. Nixon is convinced that Moscow holds the key to a settlement of the Vietnam war. He wants to "de-Americanize" the war by building up South Vietnam's ground forces, thus permitting a gradual withdrawal of U. S. forces.

2. Rebuilding and strengthening of NATO is top priority.

3. Economically, diplomatically, and militarily speaking, Nixon feels that the time has come to insist ~~th~~ that other countries must assume the responsibilities which are rightly theirs.

4. Nixon is against an increase in trade as far as ~~xxx~~ strategic items are concerned--items that might increase the warmaking capability of the Soviet Union or other communist countries. Likewise, there should be no aid or credits of any kind with any country, including the Soviet Union, that aids the enemy in Vietnam.

5. Since Nixon favors negotiating from a position of strength, he will work for military superiority--not nuclear parity--with ~~xxx~~ the Soviet Union.

Law and Order

To combat the criminal elements in our country Nixon will work for ;

- a. mandatory jail sentences for any felon who uses a gun to commit a serious crime.
- b. the use of wiretapping against organized crime and cases involving our national security.
- c. a crack down on the importation and use of narcotics and ~~xxxx~~ other drugs.
- d. the establishment of a National Academy of Law Enforcement--a "West Point" for career police officers.

Integration and Race Relation

Nixon strongly ~~believe~~ believes that private enterprise ~~should~~ should be enlisted and developed in Negro districts through tax incentives because Negroes should have an economic stake in society as workers, managers and owners. They should be directed ~~to~~ toward dignity and self-respect, not toward dependence and the dole,--through ownership of homes and businesses--aided by management training, loan guarantees, and new sources of capital.

Under the Nixon Administration education will tend to be favored over forced integration as a goal in the many programs for school aid. In other words, integration at any cost, regardless of its effect on education, will no longer be the objective in extending school aid.

Economic Policies

Nixon will try to adopt economic policies that will promote growth without punitive inflation.

a. He favors tax incentives to persuade private enterprise to undertake programs to improve housing, clear the ~~slums~~ slums, develop industries, and take an active part in other desirable projects.

b. As a means of curbing inflation, Nixon would move toward a balanced budget by ~~reducing~~ reducing federal spending. However, he will be ready to use a flexible tax and spending policy to ward off recession as well as to control inflation.

c. His general economic policy calls for leaving more money in the hands of the people instead of the federal government.

Tax Policy

Nixon will work toward removing the 10 per cent income tax surcharge as soon as possible--perhaps on the ~~1st~~ scheduled end of the surcharge on ~~the~~ June 30, ~~1969~~ 1969.

And in the years ahead, Nixon favors gradual reduction of taxes on businesses and individuals, a bit at a time as government spending is brought under control. Lower taxes would stimulate the private economy, promote growth, and generate added revenues.

Social Security

Nixon wants to provide immediately cost-of-living adjustments in Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits. He also favors an automatic cost-of-living clause in Social Security programs in the future. (Something that you have been fighting for.)

Nixon would also increase the earning that pensioners may keep without reducing their pensions, and ultimately to do away with earnings restrictions entirely.

Nixon also wants to increase a widow's benefit from 82 per cent to a full 100 per cent of the husband's pension.

Conclusion

War, race problems, rising rates of crime, inflation, and disunity were the issues that influenced the voters to ~~choose~~ select Nixon over Humphrey. And when Nixon takes office, he will be faced with three monumental problems.

- a. How to liquidate the war in Vietnam without accepting defeat.
- b. How to bring a degree of control over wage-price inflation that has threatened the soundness of the American dollar.

c. How to get better enforcement of laws against crime and how to maintain order in American cities.

Being President is not an enviable job. There were no easy answers before and there are none now. No one can or should expect Nixon, or any other man, to provide quick, simple solutions to these complex problems.

The first major job of the President-elect is to persuade the American people of this sobering fact--and of the ~~xxx~~ overriding importance that they must tackle and no longer avoid facing the issues.

We must realize that no single individual, not even the President of the United States, can by himself solve our problems. The first ~~xxxx~~ essential step is that the people themselves resolve that the problems shall be faced and the answers sought.

Nixon, in his public statement after the election, made the first essential move toward summoning forth that resolve. He spoke of striving for unity, of eliminating the divisiveness and intemperance and fear that have interfered with resolving some of ~~the~~ the major problems of today.

~~Sox~~ Now, it is the job of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike, in the words of Hubert Humphrey, to "get on with the urgent ~~task~~ task of uniting our country. "

And because Nixon has fully earned the opportunity to ~~a~~ test himself against the problems of the presidency, he has also earned encouragement, cooperation, good wishes, and an open mind among those whose security and welfare have been placed in such large measure in his hands.