

President to deliver major speech on youth in Coliseum Thursday

by GARY SEACREST
Nebraskan Staff Writer

President Richard M. Nixon, taking advantage of an opportunity to honor the national champion Cornhusker football team, will visit the University Thursday and deliver a major speech about the challenges and responsibilities of American youth.

White House aides have told *The Nebraskan* that Nixon, who has been under fire because of his partisan campaign tactics before the November elections, hopes to project a less partisan image during 1971.

His speech in the Coliseum Thursday will reflect that desire, the aides said, as well as set the tone of the administration's attitudes toward youth.

It is expected that Nixon's speech will touch on youth

participation in the political system and the 18-year-old vote. The U.S. Supreme Court recently declared that a Congressional law lowering the voting age to 18 applies only to federal elections.

Nixon has been an infrequent visitor to college campuses. His appearance in Lincoln Thursday will mark his second major address at a college campus since becoming President. He gave a major address at Kansas State University last September on violence and terror in America.

Nixon's speech Thursday will also be his first big speech of 1971, coming before his State of the Union speech to Congress later this month.

Thursday's convocation will be carried live statewide by the Nebraska Educational Television Network through

KUON-TV, channel 12. There are no plans at this time to televise Nixon's appearance live nationwide. The program will be carried live nationally on NBC Radio and on the University radio station KRNU.

Classes will not be dismissed for the session and students with conflicting classes, who want to attend, should make arrangements with their instructors, according to Soshnik.

The University convocation will start at 2 p.m. in the Coliseum. The President is scheduled to arrive at the Coliseum about 2:30, at which time he will honor the Cornhuskers as the nation's number one college football team and give his speech.

An avid sports fan, Nixon has

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Caesar comes to Coliseum

In October, the Richard Nixon campaign train visited Omaha. With the upcoming November elections in mind, Nixon packed the Ak Sar Ben Coliseum with fans, foes and Nebraska politicians. Now Nixon troupe will be swinging through the Capital City — both to honor the National Champion football team and to speak about the role of America's youth in society. A packed house, again with friends' foes and Nebraska politicians is expected.

Year of the President

1970 was touted as the year of the quarterback by sportscasters and millions of fans followed the game with religious fervor — including the nation's most prominent armchair quarterback, President Richard Nixon. With the bloodletting of the football season and political campaign finally over, the new year is seen as the year of the President, a year for reconciliation and a year that has been set above politicking and partisanship.

In 1969, 22 football players on television were able to capture the President's attention while 500,000 Moratorium marchers outside the White House grounds found him inaccessible. At the end of the '69 season, President Nixon honored Texas' national championship team. Following this precedent, he has chosen to honor the Cornhuskers as the top football team in the nation.

More than a pat on the back

But Nixon intends to do far more in his appearance here Thursday than merely praise the football team. Big Red's finish as Number One and the fact that Nebraska is a convenient stop-over on the way back to Washington from San Clemente have led the President to choose this campus for what has been billed as a "major" address.

President Nixon will deal with the responsibilities and challenges of youth in today's society and his choice of a college campus affords an audience tailored to the topic.

Nixon's first major speech on a college campus came last September at Kansas State University when, sporting the school's colors in his purple and white tie, he praised K-State's football team and denounced bombing and violence in our society. In an editorial entitled "Pap from the President," *The Nebraskan* expressed disappointment that the chief executive had chosen such an easy way out (everyone deplors the bombers) and had wasted his opportunity to "speak with" college students.

Don't waste your opportunity here, Mr. President. Speak with us, not at us — let ours be a dialogue instead of an unproductive monologue. Speak to the important issues of our time and give us insights that will test our thought and prompt our action, not the pap so many will easily accept and digest.

Productive protest

There will undoubtedly be demonstrations of protest here as there were at Kansas State. But the 20 or so demonstrators in Manhattan who shouted at the President during his speech played into Nixon's hands and provided illustrations for his subject. Such an irresponsible display here would embarrass the University, discredit all protesters in the eyes of the state and the nation, and pull even tighter the strings on the Legislature's purse.

The most responsible and productive form that protest can take is that of silence. Those who want to express their opposition to the administration's policies at home or abroad should wear a black armband (available in the north lobby of the Nebraska Union) and sit silently through the entire ceremony.

The point of protest is lost in the animosity that heckling creates, but the entire nation would note the silence of a few thousand.

We fervently hope, Mr. Nixon, that you engage us in a dialogue — for otherwise, silence will be our answer.

Revival

Due to circumstances beyond our control, THE NEBRASKAN has resumed publication. President Richard M. Nixon's visit to the University Thursday has prompted the publication of this edition and one Friday. -