After 2 Years: Where Does Nixon Stand?

By HELEN THOMAS

WASHINGTON — A half time in his term, Richard Milhous Nixon exudes confidence that he can solve the monumental national and international problems that will determine his political fate in 1972.

The President is fully aware, of course, that he must continue to wind down the war in Vietnam and jack up a sagging domestic economy. He can point to some accomplishments in Vietnam.

His efforts to cool the economy, coupled with the military cutbacks, have increased unemployment by two million since he took office.

"But now we're talking about more positive things," said one administration insider. "Inflation is slowing down. In the next two years we are going to see a positive program to build a new prosperity."

Nixon's "game plan" calls for moves to expand the economy — even at the cost of red-ink spending — and more "jawboning" to pressure union and business officials into holding the wage price line.

The White House would just as soon forget the off-year elections that found Nixon defying his own 1968 pledges to "bring us together" and his admonition to political partisans to "lower your voices."

To get a better grip on bread-and-butter problems, Nixon established in the White House the Domestic Council to advise on domestic programs and the Office of Budget and Management to handle spending policies.

Aides also credit his policies with calming the cities — "none have burned under Nixon"—and quieting the college campuses.

However, the President's surprise decision to send U.S. troops into Cambodia touched off violent reaction, including the shooting of four Kent State University students by Ohio National Guardsmen.

On the domestic front, Nixon aides say there was a relatively smooth following to the Supreme Court's order to desegregate schools at once. One aide put it this way:

"Look at the South, no buses have been overturned. The government is dealing with the problems in the hard core areas."

One of the criticisms levelled at the chief executive is that he has spent 80 per cent of his time in foreign affairs, neglecting the tormenting problems of the cities, poverty and growing militancy in the ghetto which adds to racial tensions.

Whatever the validity of these complaints, the President unquestionably is happier grappling with foreign policy problems than he is dealing with home affairs.

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The President commands a deep respect from his staff and they apparently do not live in fear of his wrath, unlike those who served LBJ and were often openly humiliated.

He is not a table pounder and he is not a hip shooter. But he has displayed anger. It came through when the Senate rejected two of his Supreme Court appointees. Nixon charged that the Senators would not accept a man from the South.

Nixon concedes his communication with blacks leaves room for improvement, but he also contends that the president should not be led by minority groups.

The year's last Gallup Poll said Nixon's popularity had fallen to a new low of 52 per cent.

But those who work daily with the President insist there is a new "excitement" at the White House. Nixon, they say, is charged with a new determination to fight for his family assistance plan, a national health plan and revenue sharing, all designed to meet domestic troubles.

NIXON IS IN TROUBLE, according to Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., left, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of Operation Breadbasket. Appearing on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers" last week, they predicted a coalition of the economically deprived, including jobless whites and the young as well as minority groups, will emerge to deny Nixon re-election in 1972.

Civilian employes appealing mass wage cuts by Navy

WASHINGTON — A recent mass downgrading ordered by the Department of the Navy has forced thousands of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, members to file appeals to protect their rights, according to AFGE National President John F. Griner.

AFGE represents over 70,000 Navy employees at 194 installations.

"The mass downgrading stemmed from a Navy interpretation of the new Civil Service Commission regulations providing environmental pay differentials for wage board employees," Grimer said last week.

These regulations provide that a wage employee will be paid a separately stated differential when he is exposed to a hazardous situation and certain other environmental factors, Griner explained.

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"Prior to the new regulations, the practice varied among agencies," he said. "Some agencies compensated employees by a separately stated differential, some included it in the job grading process and some did not compensate their employees for these environmental factors.

"The National Wage Policy Committee of the Federal Coordinated Wage System, in preparing the regulations, recognized that those employees who were already compensated for these environmental factors — through an additional grade they received directly as a result of an environmental factor or factors — would be downgraded.

"But," Griner pointed out, "it was the clear understanding of AFGE that any downgradings would be made on the basis of reviews of individual positions, and not through a mass downgrading ordered by the headquarters of a department, such as was done by Navy.

Grimer is a member of the National Wage Policy Committee.

"Since nearly 10,000 positions were involved," Grimer said, "a sizeable number would probably be restored to their old grades upon individual review of their positions.

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"However, if they simply waited for the individual review they would not be entitled to money earned between the effective date of the mass downgrading and the date of restoration to their proper grade" Grimer said.

"And with the usual slowness of administration machinery, this might amount to a substantial sum of money," he added.

AFGE proposed an alternate procedure to the Navy and the Civil Service Commission," Grimer said. "A procedure that would protect employee rights without the need to process thousands of appeals.

"Our proposal was arbitrarily rejected," he said.

Therefore, AFGE took the only alternative open, and advised the employees it represents to file individual appeals," Grimer said.

"It's the only way to protect their rights," he added.

Pay raises ok'd for U.S. employees

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House completed congressional action last week on a bill setting up machinery to give federal workers three additional raises in the next two years and nearly automatic increases each year thereafter.

The vote on final passage was 183 to 54.

The House action sent to the White House a so-called "pay comparability" bill that would trigger an immediate 5 per cent, $2.2 billion raise for nearly four million federal civilian and military personnel, effective Jan. 1, 1971.

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The President could order a similar increase a year later and the automatic pay raise machinery would take over with a third raise ten months later starting Oct. 1, 1972.

The expected New Year's increase would swell the federal civilian and military payroll to nearly $53 billion.

Federal employees themselves would have a voice in the annual size of the increase through a council that would, along with a separate group of independent citizens, recommend to a representative of the president, the size of the annual boost.

If the president agreed, it would automatically go into effect each Oct. 1.

If the president changed the proposal, Congress could vote his action and his agent's recommendation would automatically take effect.

All federal, civilian and military personnel get an 8 per cent raise on July 1, 1969, and a 6 per cent boost on Jan. 1, 1970.

Postal workers get an additional 8 per cent on April 17, 1970.

Truck trade hiring practices censured

WASHINGTON — Hiring standards in the trucking industry "effectively exclude" most undereducated minority group members from employment as truck terminal dock workers, according to a report, prepared for the Labor Department.

The report points to unrealistic hiring methods for selecting dock workers by the trucking companies:

"Many companies hire only high school graduates as dock workers; other companies merely give preference to high school graduates; some administer standard verbal personnel tests to help identify applicants who will perform well on the job."

"The trucking industry's educational and testing prerequisites are clearly unrealistic in view of the relatively low-skilled work itself and because of the lack of formal education or verbal skills or both among most potential employees."

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These standards are not only "detrimental" to minority group job seekers but are actually "unprofitable" to the trucking industry, the report says.

The report, "Tri-Faith Trucking Terminal Employment Project," is based on an 18-month Manpower Administration experimental and demonstration project in progress on a variety of subjects and problems, such as this one, to help determine future program policies and actions.

Services held for Mrs. Jackson

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Services for Mrs. Grace Jackson were held recently at the Mount Zion Baptist Church. The Rev. W. T. Radden, pastor of the church, was in charge.

Mrs. Grace Jackson was the daughter of Mrs. Lizzie Gasset.

J.W. Woodward Funeral Home was in charge of the Arrangements. Burial services were held in Lincoln Memorial Gardens.

problems of manpower shortage and high employee turnover.

Some of the other findings in the report are:

Formal education does not predict job success. The employment retention rate for the 81 graduates who had only nine or less years of formal education averaged 68 per cent. For those with 10 or more years of schooling, the average was 85 percent.

Test scores fail to identify good workers. Program graduates who scored below 1 on such tests had an employment retention rate of 23 percent higher than those who scored 14 or more.

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Of 100 trucking companies surveyed, 32 would not accept a man with any type of police record. However, of the 29 trainees who had been convicted of misdemeanors, 15 are currently working as dockmen.

"Further, the industry's high employee turnover rates suggest that such 'safety' hiring standards do not predict — let alone guarantee — selection of stable employees."

The Manpower Administration has 86 experimental and demonstration projects in progress on a variety of subjects and problems, such as this one, to help determine future program policies and actions.

Civil Rights leaders spurn Nixon policy

WASHINGTON — President Nixon received messages from two black leaders denouncing his Dec. 10, news conference statement.

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told Nixon that it was "shocking and painful" to read his statement that "forced integration of the suburbs is not in the national interest."

Wilkins called the President's choice of words, "unfortunate and inappropriate," and said it would "only serve to promote existing fears among racial groups, and promote further resistance to law and racial polarization."

Clarence Mitchell, legislative chairman for the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and head of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP also sent a telegram to the President concerning proposed cuts for the Office of Economic Opportunity and the elimination of the VISTA program.

Mitchell said the proposal would cause some 60,000 anti-poverty workers to be laid off and "more than half would be forced back into lives of poverty."

Long holiday weekends this year

WASHINGTON (UPI) — This is the year Americans will begin enjoying those long, three-day weekends provided by Congress more than two years ago with liberal juggling of federal holidays.

And 1971, the year the holiday-juggling law takes effect, is a bonus year. Four holidays Congress didn't tamper with already fall on or adjacent to weekends, giving Americans eight long weekends.

From now on, George Washington's birthday, Memorial Day, Columbus Day — a new federal holiday — and Veterans Day will be celebrated on Mondays, regardless of the date.

The other four holiday weekends this year are for Christmas, New Year's July 4 and Labor Day.

The only holiday not providing a long weekend is Thanksgiving, left untouched as the fourth Thursday in November.

Here's the holiday weekend lineup for 1971:

—Washington's Birthday, (actually Feb. 22) third Monday in February on Feb. 15.

—Memorial Day, last Monday in May but formerly May 30, on May 31, 1971.

—Independence Day, left untouched on July 4, a Sunday this year.

—Labor Day, always the first Monday in September, Sept. 6 this year.

—Columbus Day, second Monday in October, Oct. 11 this year.

—Veterans Day, fourth Monday in October, Oct. 25 this year.

—Christmas, Dec. 25 on a Saturday this year.

—New Year's Day, of course, was on a Friday this year and the first day of 1972 will be on a Saturday.

Death row cleared by Arkansas Gov.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (UPI) — Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller Tuesday commuted the sentences of all 15 men on Arkansas' death row in an effort to "hasten the elimination of barbarism as a tool of American justice."

Included in the group were 11 blacks and four whites.

Six black men on death row were sentenced for rape. Nine were sentenced for murder. One man had been awaiting execution since 1959.

Rockefeller said the State Board of Pardons and Paroles will meet Jan. 8 to consider recommendations that the life sentences of the 15 be commuted to a "term of years."

Arkansas law prohibits anyone serving a life sentence from being paroled, but if the sentences were commuted to a term of years, the men could be paroled.

U.S Rejects Roanoke Housing For Poor

ROANOKE — The Federal Housing Administration isn't interested in helping poor people in Southwest Virginia.

The rejection of two projects makes officials at the Southwest Virginia Community Development Fund think so.

The fund proposed to construct 30 single-family rental homes in New Castle and 80 apartment units on Cherry and Orange Avenues here.

FHA's Richmond office refused the New Castle homes, because there was no market for them and they might be subject to flooding.

The Roanoke apartments were rejected because the proposed site is too hilly and a major traffic artery passes by them.

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In reply, a fund official said the office was looking for excuses to reject the proposals.

It used 1960 Census figures to determine the lack of a market in Craig County and could have proposed an alternative site to avoid flooding.

On the Roanoke proposal, the official admitted that there are steep slopes on the site, but countered that "all of the Gainsboro section is composed of steep slopes.

"But that is no reason for doing nothing. FHA is interested only in nice, flat pieces of land where there are no physical problems."

As for the major traffic route, Route 11A, "It's evident that FHA hasn't been on Fifth Street lately. It's not a major thoroughfare through Roanoke at all."

FHA is content to provide excuses rather than reasons or suggestions, the SVCDF official declared.

"We don't think they want to recognize us or the communities as housing sponsors because it means more competition for established builders.

"We've tried to squeeze the unnecessary profit out of the FHA game.

"This, we think, would set new precedents for FHA-insured developments and probably show those hidden costs which developers and contractors write into all their FHA-insured projects."

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How many projects have been built in the Roanoke Valley by non-profit sponsors the fund executive asked. "How many FHA-insured rental developments have been built in this area? None."

Fund officials had two meetings last month with FHA representatives trying to work out details of the two proposals.

The Roanoke apartment project will be altered and resubmitted, but officials here are pessimistic. They have no hope for Craig County.

"The simple truth is, and FHA representatives have made it a verbal point, that they have no interest and are unwilling to make commitment to do something about the areas we serve. To them, these areas do not exist.

A recent University of Virginia study indicated some 127,000 in the 18-21 category. Their political preference is not known.

Urban group to urge 'new priorities'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The National Urban Coalition, under new management, is getting ready to challenge the Nixon Administration with a "new priorities" budget and to prod the nation at large with another major inquiry into race relations.

The ambitious planning was outlined for newsmen by Sol Linowitz and Jack Hood Vaughn, the chairman and the president, respectively, of the private organization that seeks to enlist local business, labor, civic, church and government leaders in programs designed to solve urban problems.

Linowitz, former U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States and Vaughn, former Peace Corps director, took over leadership of the coalition from John W. Gardner, who moved to the Common Cause "Citizen's Lobby" earlier this year.

The two men said the coalition already has prepared a "national priorities" report which would be disclosed in mid-January, followed by a proposed alternative budget drawn up to reflect the group's feeling that the government must shift its emphasis in a number of fields to meet national problems.

The budget proposal probably will be released about the same time as President Nixon's official budget message for the 1971-72 fiscal year, Linowitz said.

The coalition also plans to set up a special commission to examine the state of race relations in the nation, with emphasis on the recommendations and findings of the 1967 Kerner Commission.

Linowitz said Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York, who was vice chairman of the Kerner Commission, and Sen. Fred Harris, D-Okla., who helped originate and served on the commission, would jointly lead the new group.

OEO nominee bogged down in confirmation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Frank C. Carlucci III, a diplomat who has survived "perilous posts" in Africa, got lost in the political jungle last Wednesday on his way to confirmation as director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Senate confirmation of Carlucci's nomination by President Nixon was delayed by Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., in an effort to enforce the acting OEO director to override Gov. Ronald Reagan's veto of a $1.8 million grant to the California Rural Legal Aid Program.

Carlucci, 40, was stalled despite his repeated promises during four hours of questioning to fight for continuation of all OEO programs and his pledge not to engage in partisan politics as head of the federal antipoverty agency.

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Carlucci, who was assistant OEO director under Donald Rumsfeld, White House counselor, assured senators he would not have accepted the appointment if he thought OEO were a dying agency.

As the Senate committee also considered the nomination of Carol Khosrovi to be new director of the OEO Vista Program, Rumsfeld took issue with some recent reports the administration would dismantle the program — Volunteers in Service to America.

"My best guess is that there will continue to be a VISTA program," Rumsfeld said on a CBS-TV news program.

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"There will continue to be an institution where people who want to be involved will continue to be able to do so," he replied when asked if the VISTA budget would be cut.

In pledging that he would steer clear of politics, Carlucci said he did not consider himself a "political figure" and that he planned eventually to return to the State department, where he served as a career foreign service officer.

Carlucci, native of Scranton, Pa., was introduced to the Senate Labor Committee by Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania.

Noting that the nominee had worked as a U.S. envoy in South Africa, Zanzibar and the Congo, Scott said: "having served in various perilous posts, he's well qualified to head the OEO."

Premier seen

Young to vote In U.S. elections

RICHMOND, Va. (UPI) — The State Board of Elections last week ordered local voting registrars to begin registering persons between 18 and 21 for federal elections only.

While the order was effective Jan. 1, for all practical purposes the effective date was Jan. 4, the first post-holiday business day.

The young people will be eligible to vote in federal elections under the 1970 Voting Rights Act.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently upheld Congress' right to fix the voting age at 18, but only in Presidential and Congressional contests.

CONSUMER TIPS — The first leaflets in a new government consumer series have come off the press. Entitled "Speak Up! When Y ou Buy A Car," "Knock, Knock," and "Be Sure Before You Buy," they contain basic information on contract signing, installment buying, door-to-door sales techniques and other practices. Order for 10 cents apeice (or $7.50 per 100) from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C., 20402.

Also available from the same source is a 58-page booklet "Suggested Guidelines for Consumer Education," a useful guidebook for educators or group leaders. The price is 65 cents.

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COURSES FOR THE BLIND — More than 100 home-study courses ranging from elementary through college levels are offered by the Hadley School for the Blind, a non-profit institution. The courses are given in Braille and or recordings. For more information, write the school at 700 Elm St., Winnetka, Ill., 60093, and ask for "Bulletin No. 32, List and Description of Courses." It's free

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1971 DRAFT — First in line to be called up for 1971 are those young men whose lottery numbers were reached in 1970 but who were not called for induction. Most of these will have lottery numbers under 195. If they are not called by the end of March, however, they will be dropped to a lower priority group.

Next in line are those who turned 19 during 1970 and were assigned numbers in the drawing last July, plus any older men whose deferments run out in 1971.

The January ceiling for men who got numbers in the 1970 drawing will be 100 and men with numbers over that are expected to be safe from induction for the first few months of the year.

Young men who will become 19 in 1971 will get lottery numbers later this year that will decide inductions for 1972.

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MICROWAVE OVENS are as safe as conventional ranges — if they are used correctly. The government has prepared a booklet detailing the proper way to use the new devices. It is available free from the Office of Information, Bureau of Radiological Health, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 12720 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Md., 20852.

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FROSTBITE — Do not massage or rub snow on a part of the body that is frostbitten, says the American Red Cross. Instead, frostbitten hands or feet should be placed quickly in water at about 105 to 110 degrees, or they should be wrapped in warmed cloth. Then call a doctor.

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VEGETABLES — Hints on buying canned and frozen vegetables are contained in a new free leaflet available from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250. Ask for: "How to Buy Canned and Frozen Vegetables, HG-167."

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TRACTORS — Residents of rural areas who are thinking of investing in a small tractor will be able to use the information in "Compact Tractors — Selection and Use," a pamphlet available for 20 cents from the Mailing Room, Bldg. 7, Research Park, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., 14850.

Monday, January 11

WETA-Channel 26

6:00: Sesame Street No. 171 (R) Sesame Street No. 176

9:00: Sesame Street No. 176

10:00: Stock Market Report — Continuous quotations from the New York Stock Exchange.

11:00: Stock Market Report — Continuous quotations from the New York Stock Exchange.

3:30: Sesame Street No. 176

4:00: Sesame Street No. 176 (R)

5:00: Misterogers' Neighborhood Hodgepodge Lodge — Attracting Birds.

6:00: Newsroom

7:00: The French Chef — Chicken Breasts Alexander curry (R)

7:30: Making Things Grow — Short Day Production of Flowering Photoperiodic Plants. (R-Sat.)

8:00: Hall of Science — Presented to the public as interested in the sciences of five continents.

8:05: Free At Last. Real-life Preparations by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his Last Days in Memphis.

8:30: Preparations by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his Last Days in Memphis.

9:00: Dinah's Place (c)

10:30: Concentration (c)

11:00: The Galloping Gourmet (c) The Hollywood Squares (c)

11:30: The Hollywood Squares (c)

12:00: What's My Line? (c)

12:30: Wild Kingdom (c)

1:00: All My Children (ABC) (c)

1:30: Let's Make A Deal (CBS) (c) The Mike Douglas Show (c)

3:30: One Life to Live (ABC) (c)

4:30: The David Frost Show (c)

5:30: The Dorsey Day

6:30: CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite

7:00: Newswatch

7:15: Newswatch Weather: Perry Andrews

7:20: Newswatch Weather: Jack Downey

7:25: Newspeak — Latin Lessons — Lesson Twenty-Three.

7:30: Here's Lucy

8:30: The Doris Day Show

10:00: The Carol Burnett Show

10:30: Newswatch

11:00: Newswatch

11:15: Sports Watch

11:20: Sports Watch

11:30: Merv Griffin

1:05: Bible Reading

1:10: Sign Off

WBAL-TV (11)

6:15: Sign On and Devotions

6:30: Learning to Read

7:00: Today Show (c)

7:25: TV 11 News: 7:25 Edition

7:30: Today Show (c)

8:25: TV 11 News: 8:25 Edition

8:30: Today Show (c)

9:00: Hazel (Champagne Tony) (c)

9:30: Danny (Terry Goes Bowling) (c)

10:00: Dinah's Place (c)

10:30: Concentration (c)

11:00: The Galloping Gourmet (c) The Hollywood Squares (c)

11:30: The Hollywood Squares (c)

12:00: Newsroom final

12:30: Wild Kingdom (c)

1:00: Days of Our Lives (c)

1:30: Days of Our Lives (c)

2:00: Treasures in Books (c)

2:30: Top Doctors (c)

3:00: Another World (c)

3:30: Bright Promise (c)

4:00: Another World (c)

4:30: Search for Tomorrow (c)

5:00: NBC Nightly News

7:00: TV 11 News. 7 O'Clock Edition (c)

7:30: Wonderful World of Disney (c)

8:30: Bill Cosby Show (c)

9:00: Bonanza (c)

10:00: Brady Bunch (c)

10:30: Insight (Bourbon in Suburbia) (c)

11:00: TV 11 Parade (c)

6:30: Projection 71 (c)

6:30: North Star (c)

7:00: TV 11 News