

Nixon Speaks In Charlotte

The Daily Tar Heel

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GOP Nominee Draws Huge Crowd

This article was written by Assistant Editor Ron Shumate, past editor of the UNC News, the summer session paper. Shumate went to Charlotte to cover the Nixon appearance. This article serves to balance the coverage afforded Senator Kennedy on his tour through the state.

The Editor

RON SHUMATE

Vice President Richard M. Nixon made his second venture into North Carolina Monday, winging into the state's largest city, where he drew a throng that filled the huge 12,000-seat Coliseum to overflowing.

Nixon also met with a "representative group of leaders of the textile and garment manufacturing industries."

Nixon arrived at Douglas Municipal Airport at 3:59 p.m. His plane was preceded by two other planes, carrying campaign staffers and members of the Washington press corps.

He was greeted, upon stepping from the plane, by the Harding High School band's version of the Duke alma mater. Nixon seemed not to hear it at first, with all the hustle and bustle around him—such as meeting all the Republican dignitaries who were anxious to greet the GOP presidential nominee.

On Schedule

Nixon was scheduled to spend 20 minutes at the airport before leaving in a white convertible for town. And spend 20 minutes he did.

After the Vice President, wife Pat and GOP Congressman Charley Jonas sat down in the back seat of the car, several people kept running up to shake Nixon's hand. Jonas kept muttering, "We'd better go or we're going to be late," and "We've got to go, before it rains."

The rains came later. The motorcade to the city moved fairly swiftly. Crowds along the way were not overwhelming, but seemed to gather in groups at various points along the way.

Estimates on the crowd that greeted the Vice President at the airport varied considerably. But Charlotte Traffic Captain James Stegall put the crowd at more than 2,000.

A crowd of several hundred met the motorcade at the Barringer Hotel. The Vice President and his wife were helped through the crowd by Secret Service men and went immediately to their seventh floor suite. The time was 4:42—two minutes behind schedule.

Meets With Textile Leaders

At 5 p.m. Nixon met with the 35 textile leaders. A press conference had been tentatively set for after this conference but was cancelled by the Vice President's press secretary, Herb Klein, when the plane landed at the airport.

But the newsmen, along with a hundred or so onlookers, were there nevertheless. Television cameras from local stations were set up on the mezzanine, where Nixon and the textile leaders would emerge.

Nixon followed the textile men out of the meeting, came down the stairs into the main lobby and went straight into an elevator and disappeared.

We learned later that the Vice President had a cup of consommé, orange juice and coffee for supper.

And while Nixon was dining on the seventh floor, the press was treated to a reception on the second floor.

And The Rains Came

It was during this period that the rains came. And did the rains ever come. Winds reached 45 m.p.h., and knocked down trees and power lines in several places across the city. The strong gusts spun the Vice President's plane partially around and rolled it an estimated 25 feet.

But the only damage to the plane was a small dent in one wing.

At 7:20 p.m., with the heavy wind and rain about gone, Nixon and his party departed for the Coliseum.

People had been streaming into the huge structure ever since the doors opened, and by 6:30 the Coliseum was about three-quarters filled. When this reporter arrived at about 7:10, there was hardly an empty seat to be had.

Draws Large Crowd

Coliseum Manager Paul Buck said there were 12,000 people seated, and another 500 standing. Capt. Stegall estimated that there were 10,000 more standing in the streets outside.

The Coliseum parking lot was jam-packed. At one time traffic was backed up for more than two miles.

But early-arrivers had plenty to entertain them. Arthur Smith and his Crackerjacks, the same group that entertained when Sen. Kennedy was in Charlotte, played and sang several numbers. In addition, there was the "Voices for Nixon" choir, several bands, and prancing majorettes.

The first standing ovation of the night went to Congressman Charles Raper Jonas. Following a few short talks by various Republican dignitaries on the platform, an official welcome to Charlotte was given by Mayor James Smith.

Then GOP gubernatorial candidate Robert Gavin of Sanford was introduced. He got a one and one-half minute ovation. His short speech was interrupted four times by applause from the audience.

Gavin Speaks

Gavin said that the crowd was "typical of the crowds that are turning out to hear Republican doctrine this year. It is evidence of the interest in the Republican party, and is also evidence that North Carolina will go Republican in 1960.

"This shows," said Gavin, "that North Carolina is not as some would say 'beyond hope.' But North Carolina is on the way to progress and prosperity under a Republican administration."

Next up was Jonas, who, this time, drew a half-minute round of applause. And Jonas introduced the Vice President.

The audience broke loose. They stood and cheered, applauded, whistled and demonstrated for nearly three minutes.

Above and behind the platform was an eight-foot elephant made of artificial red carnations and green fern.

Nixon quickly got in a plug for Jonas, who is running for re-election against Democrat David Clark.

Plugs Charley Jonas

"There's only one thing wrong with Jonas," the Vice President said. "There's just not enough of him up there (in Congress.)"

Nixon also had kind words for Gavin, which also drew applause. And both Jonas and Gavin posed with the Vice President on the platform.

The Vice President said his speech was being broadcast into South Carolina. He had earlier cancelled a trip to Columbia, S.C. The reason for the cancellation, he said, was that "because of heavy commitments here, I would be unable to do justice to South Carolina."

But the Vice President said that he would go to South Carolina, "as we intend to win both North Carolina and South Carolina."

It was reported, however, that Nixon headquarters postponed the Columbia trip because a southeast-wide rally might be held there later in the campaign.

It had been reported earlier that he was cancelling the visit to Columbia because of inclement weather conditions.

Gives Major Address

In his speech, which was billed as a "major address," Nixon touched on virtually every major campaign issue. He made several charges to his opponent.

Some of these are as follows:

"Senator Kennedy has promised many things in this campaign. These he has promised for a nation which he views darkly as being on the defensive in a world dominated by Communism, held in contempt by those who love freedom, its military forces relatively weak and out of date, a tenth of its people verging on starvation, its educational system woefully behind, the entire nation teetering on economic depression—and one of its two great political parties dead set against human welfare, addicted to human misery, against decent schooling for children, anxious for the elderly to live in poorhouses and unattended when ill—a party truly content only when people are out of work.

"This strange preoccupation with despair has led Senator Kennedy to urge some very interesting proposals.

"For example, to keep our country from remaining, as he sees it, relatively second rate, he promised to raise your Social Security tax.

Continues On Kennedy

"To strengthen our country from within, he promises to move the Federal Government into the very heart of your school system by providing Federal dollars for use to pay the salaries of your teachers, which would inevitably bring Federal control of what is taught.

"To assure a vital economy, he promises a minimum wage that official studies show would force unemployment and business failures.

"To protect the unfortunate, he promises to give the wealthiest people in America a helping hand with medical costs in their later years, while withholding help from some 3,000,000 people with incomes of \$2,000 or less; in fact, in the name of freedom he would force this medical program on one and all, save the 3,000,000 who need help the most.

"For vitality in the farmlands, he promises to regiment all agriculture from now on.

"To build for the future, he promises a program that will price cotton out of markets so that synthetics will take over; as a result, to keep America ahead, your cotton acreages will be cut, cut again, and then cut some more.

"Time and time again Senator Kennedy has promised to carry out all of the irresponsible contradictions bundled into the 1960 Democratic Platform, adopted six weeks ago in Los Angeles.

Changed His Mind

"He changed his mind a bit on this in our debate last week.

"I believe Senator Kennedy is going to take time to read some of his other Platform promises. I commend this to him in the hope that he will repudiate or revise other parts of his Platform and perhaps, on reflection, will decide to keep the plank he rewrote during our first debate.

"There has been some talk around the country that Senator Kennedy really does not agree with a number of his Platform pledges.

"I call upon him to say exactly where he agrees and where he disagrees.

"And I want him to state his views in exactly the same way in the North, the East, the South and the West, so everyone in every part of America will clearly understand his position."

Nixon's 25-minute address was interrupted some 15 times by applause. The longest burst was about 15 seconds.

Nixon On Civil Rights

Most newsmen, and other observers as well, felt that Nixon handled the civil rights issue better than any other. On this subject the Vice President said:

"On the issue of civil rights there are many people in the South who do not like our platform, as well as that of the Democratic Platform.

"I have stated my beliefs before. This is not just a Southern problem, but a Northern problem, a Western problem and an Eastern problem. Here he drew an approving round of applause.

"I have my convictions and you have yours," Nixon said, and we must move together to resolve it."

"The problem must be solved, he said, "because we must not permit a man such as Nikita Khrushchev, who has enslaved millions, to come to the United States and point the finger at us and say we deny rights to our people."

Differing Platforms

Nixon also made a strong point of the Democrats wishing "to turn first to Washington." He said the difference in the two platforms is that "We will produce and they won't."

"The difference lies in our philosophy. They say turn first to Washington. We say that's the wrong place to start. We should start with the people, and work up to Washington."

"We stand for strengthening the states and not for weakening them," the Vice President stated.

He also made an appeal for Democrats to cross party lines and vote Republican.

"Get Beneath Party Label"

"We must get beneath the label and see what the man stands for."

Nixon also chided his opponent for saying he was tired of reading what Khrushchev and Castro are doing, and not what the President is doing.

"If he'd quit talking and start reading he would find out what the president is doing," Nixon said. He added that the President "isn't pounding the table and making a fool of himself"—a reference to Khrushchev's performance at the United Nations General Assembly.

"Fifteen years have elapsed since World War II," Nixon said. "For seven and one-half of those years we've had Eisenhower for President. And for seven and one-half years we've done a good job.

"In the seven Eisenhower years average wages have gone up 15 per cent. Under Truman wages rose only two per cent.

"More schools, more hospitals and more highways have been built. There's been more progress in every way.

He said the Republican platform in the field of education would provide more school buildings and bring higher pay to teachers—without bringing about federal controls.

"We are proud we stand for a program . . . which rejects the program that would endanger the states' right to control such things as teacher pay. That must never happen," he said.

With regard to old age insurance, the Vice President said that "our way is a program which leaves to the individual the choice as to what he wants in protection. No one should be compelled to have it against their will."

Nixon said the GOP platform with regard to agriculture is one that will mean abundance and will remove surplus. "There's one of scarcity," he said "Test our programs, and you will find that ours will bring progress, their stagnation."

And he drew his biggest round of applause of the evening when he said that Sen. Kennedy is promising to "spend billions more than I think it is wise to spend . . . But whose money is it?"

"It isn't Jack's money, but yours he's spending. I refuse to go around this country trying to buy the people's votes with their own money."

Turning to textiles, the Vice President referred to the statement he released concerning his meeting earlier with textile leaders.

"I don't think certain industries are expendable," he said. "We have a program that will see that they are not expendable."

In his statement he said: "It is my conviction, and I have stated it many times, that we must have strong trade relations with other Free World nations. We cannot be isolated in the economic world of the intercontinental ballistic missile. America's trade policy must recognize that we are the world's largest importer and exporter, trading with countries whose dependence on foreign commerce is greater than our own.

"But it doesn't make sense to me to require one or a few industries to bear the whole burden that foreign policy decisions may require. Nor does it make sense to me that an industry like cotton textiles bear an inequitable burden as a result of efforts to adjust wartime agricultural policies to peacetime needs."

He further stated that "Our diplomatic resources should be used unreservedly to remove remaining roadblocks to increasing our exports abroad, to create wider opportunities among other nations for imports from low-wage countries, and to encourage the development of fair labor standards in exporting countries in the interest of fair competition in international trade.



Campaigners Have To Keep On The Go



Foray Into South Is Deemed Successful

