



RELAXES — Sen. Nixon relaxes in Ambassador Hotel swimming pool before appearing before national television audience to make accounting of his expense fund.

(AP photo)

Nixon Speaks With Wife as Only 'Live' Audience

Broadcast Originates in Simple TV Studio, but Technicians Declare It a Huge Success

Sen. Richard M. Nixon spoke to the nation from a Hollywood stage last night with only his wife for an audience.

He spoke in dead seriousness and when he finished both he and his wife Patricia were wiping tears from their eyes.

They stepped to the side of the stage, pushed aside heavy drapes which had hidden them and began to thank more than a dozen technicians who had handled the nationwide telecast and broadcast.

Something about the handshakes told them instantly that the speech had been a smashing success.

Switchboard Flooded

Other technicians came running from the wings and voluntarily pushed their hands toward the Republican Vice-Presidential nominee to congratulate him.

Simultaneously the National Broadcasting Co., whose television station, KNBH, had released the address, reported its telephone switchboard was lighted like a Christmas tree.

Americans throughout the nation were weeping with the same emotion and were recovering sufficiently to volunteer their support for the Eisenhower-Nixon campaign.

"Where can we wire? What can we do?" began most of the queries from big cities and little towns throughout the nation.

'Nothing Like It'

"I don't think we have had anything like this in our life," said one switchboard operator at NBC.

Others who heard the address over the CBS and Mutual networks responded in the same way and reports came quickly that newspaper switchboards throughout the nation were similarly flooded. It was almost impossible to get a connection with the Los Angeles Times.

All this had begun in rather quiet fashion at 5:45 p.m. when the Nixons and their party had driven from the Ambassador to El Capitan theater on Vine St. just a half block north of Hollywood Blvd.

Capt. Blaine Steed, head of a police security detail, and a handful of police officers had little difficulty escorting the Nixons through a group of 40 or 50 persons waiting on the sidewalk.

Meet Make-up Men

The Nixons went inside where they first conferred with television make-up men.

For about a half hour they sat and stood while cameras and microphones were adjusted.

The stage was a simple setting for a television show to follow. Nixon sat in a wooden chair before an early American wooden desk, beside a bookshelf. Mrs. Nixon was several feet away in an overstuffed chair. Just before Knox Manning introduced Nixon, curtains were drawn at the side of the stage,

but this was unnecessary. The only members of Nixon's staff present, Rep. Pat Hillings, William Rogers and James Bassett, press manager, were out of sight in a sponsor's booth. They watched the address on a television set as did about 30 newspapermen who were in a conference room above the theater lobby.

Theater Empty

The theater itself was empty — just as Nixon had requested.

When the address ended and the Nixons left the theater about 7:20 p.m., about 100 persons were gathered beside the stage door and more were on the sidewalk.

They set up a chant, "We want Dick, we want Dick," before the Nixons emerged from the theater. Many of them had seen the address on television. Others had heard it on the radio.

Sets were still turned on in many automobiles in a parking lot adjacent to the theater.

The cheers grew even louder as the Nixons hurried to their automobile, smiling broadly.

By now the Nixons must have known that in show parlance they were a box-office hit. There were many scattered shouts of spectators offering to work for them.

And one voice even called, "Let me know if your children ever want another cocker spaniel."