

Seattle Times
Seattle, Wash.
CircD. 230,487
Circ.S. 277,090

S.A.S.S.

SEP 26 1968

'Very Encouraged' Nixon Takes His Campaign South

(See Page B for photograph)

By LYLE BURT
Times Political Reporter

Voicing enthusiasm over his Seattle reception, Richard M. Nixon flew to Denver yesterday on the first leg of a campaign trip into the South.

"I am very encouraged by my visit," the Republican presidential nominee said as he prepared to board his chartered Boeing 727.

Turning to Gov. Dan Evans, who was on hand to say "good bye," Nixon said:

"Give us a couple of congressmen, Dan. Just two will do."

Halfway up the boarding ladder the former vice president looked at the clear blue sky and bright sunlight and quipped:

"When does the rain come?"

NIXON TOLD newsmen that he is ahead of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey in Washington, but does not consider Washington a "sure state."

"I always consider Washington and Oregon as battlegrounds," he said, adding that he might return to the state prior to the November 5 general election but would not know for sure until about October 5.

After Nixon's departure, Evans recounted how Nixon had inquired about the chances for Art Fletcher, Republican nominee for lieutenant governor.

"He expressed hope that we could do a job of electing him (Fletcher)," the governor said.

"I told him Fletcher had a tough race but that we needed a full-time lieutenant governor."

Evans said that with the enthusiasm and excitement over Fletcher's candidacy, especially by young people, "I think he has a chance."

NIXON ALSO told the governor that he believed an important part of the future of the Pacific Northwest is tied to extensions of trade with Pacific Rim nations and ways must be found to expand that trade.

"I think his (Nixon's) visit helped us, particularly with congressional races," the chief executive told newsmen.

But Evans said it was hard to tell whether that help would filter down to contests for seats in the Legislature.

Nixon's departure wound up a campaign trip here which started with his arrival at Boeing Field about 5 p. m. Tuesday. In the interval he addressed a crowd of about 5,000 persons in University Plaza, took a ride on a hydrofoil and inspected the Lockheed shipyard.

Nixon's hydrofoil trip yesterday, which began at Pier 64, lasted nearly a half hour as the speedy vessel swung in huge circles around Elliott Bay. The vessel was accompanied by Coast Guard and Harbor Police patrol boats

and the fireboat Duwamish, spouting arching streams of water from its seven monitors.

At Harbor Island Nixon, wearing an orange hard hat, landed at a Lockheed dock to the applause of gathered shipyard workers.

HIS VISIT there was brief but included a quick trip aboard a 16,000-ton amphibious assault ship under construction and a five-minute tour of one of the shops. Along the route the candidate shook the hands of about 100 workmen, assuring them, "There's lots of work ahead."

As Nixon's three chartered jets, two of them bearing members of the press corps, lifted into the air at Boeing Field yesterday afternoon, plans already were under way for the visit of Vice President Humphrey.

Humphrey is scheduled to land at Paine Field about 2:30 p. m. Saturday.

Before arriving here Humphrey is to take part in dedication ceremonies of John Day Dam, on the Columbia River near The Dalles, Ore.

The highlight of the Humphrey visit will be a rally Saturday evening in the Seattle Center Arena. The remainder of his schedule was still under discussion early today.

The vice president is scheduled to remain here until early Monday morning and perhaps will go on a salmon-fishing trip Sunday.