

# MR. NIXON'S SENSE OF HISTORY

compiled by Jeff Greenfield

"Yesterday, for the first time in history, a man occupying the office of President of the United States visited a session of the House of Commons."

—England, February 26, 1969

"... As I stand here today before this Parliament, this is the first time that I, as President of the United States, have appeared before any legislative body in the whole world."

—Bundestag, February 26, 1969

"... I have had the privilege of visiting more African countries than any man who has been President of the United States."

—Organization of African Unity,  
May 25, 1969

"... you were the first state visitor to the United States from the American family to the South."

—Visit of Colombian President  
Lleras, June 12, 1969

"No visitor to this house has a greater historical significance than your visit to the White House again . . ."

"I am the fourth President of the United States to have the honor of receiving you here in the White House as an official state visitor. In the whole history of the United States, over 190 years, this has not been the case with any official visitor. You broke the record today."

—State Dinner for Emperor  
Haile Selassie I, July 8, 1969

"... this certainly has to be the most historic telephone call ever made from the White House."

—Talking to Astronauts on  
the Moon, July 20, 1969

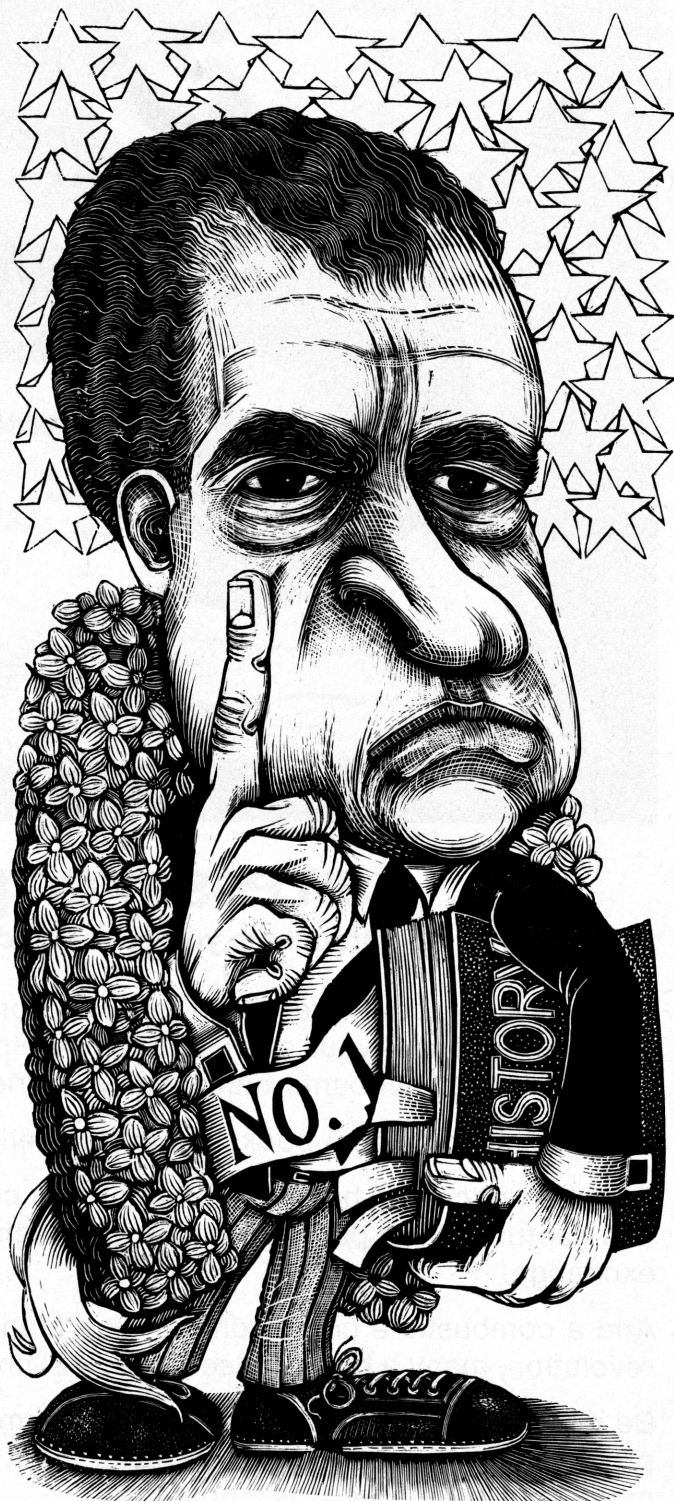
"I think it is significant to note that the first world capital that I am visiting after having greeted the first men to have set foot on the moon, was Manila, capital of the Philippines. Also, the first Asian capital that I am visiting on this trip that takes me around the world is Manila, and the country is the Philippines."

—Manila, July 26, 1969

"Now, as I stand here today, I realize for the first time in history a President of the United States of America is visiting Indonesia."

—Djakarta, July 27, 1969

H. L. Mencken once said that Warren Harding had listened to too many Chautauqua revivalists, that their rhetorical excesses were locked into his mind. In Mr. Nixon's case, the President has heard the voices of too many baseball announcers imparting historic significance to every fly ball.



JAMES GRASHOW

"This is the first time that I have ever said goodbye to the people of this country."

—*Departure from Djakarta, July 28, 1969*

"This is an historic occasion. While this is not my first visit to your country, it is the first visit of a President of the United States to Romania, the first state visit by an American President to a socialist country or to this region of the Continent of Europe."

—*Bucharest, August 2, 1969*

"... it is the first visit of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic to this country since the new Administration came into office. It also, incidentally, is the first time that the new Chief Justice of the United States has ever attended a state dinner as Chief Justice." (*Author's note: last time he came as Batman.*)

—*State Dinner for Chancellor Kiesinger, August 7, 1969*

"I am proud that, as President of the United States, the first welcome to a head of state outside of Washington, D.C. is in my home state of California."

—*Welcoming Korean President Chung Hee Park, August 21, 1969*

"This is the first chance I have had to be in Humboldt County for seven years . . ."

—*Redwood National Park, August 27, 1969*

"... this happens to be the first visit that I have paid as President of the United States to any of the countries in Latin America."

—*Luncheon with Mexican President Diaz Ordaz, September 8, 1969*

"As you know, this is the worst storm that has been recorded in the one hundred years of recording storms in the United States, and that means that it is probably the worst in terms of damage, physically, that any state in any area has ever suffered."

—*Gulfport, Mississippi, September 8, 1969*

"This is the first time in this Administration we have had the honor to receive the head of government of another state who is also a woman."

—*State Dinner for Golda Meir, September 25, 1969*

"This, of course, is not the first time that His Majesty has been here, but you will be interested to note that he is one of the few leaders of the world who has been a guest in this house and in this room as a guest of President Truman, and then of President Eisenhower, and then President Kennedy and then President Johnson and now, tonight, as our guest."

—*State Dinner for the Shah of Iran, October 21, 1969*

"This is the first time in history that a President of the United States has ever spoken in Morris County."

—*Governor Morris Inn, October 29, 1969*

"I have learned that this is the first occasion in which remarks of the President of any one of the American nations has been carried and is being carried live by Telstar to all of the nations in the hemisphere."

—*Inter-American Press Association, October 31, 1969*

"This is really a very historic occasion for this hour . . . this is the biggest dinner that has been held in the White House since this Administration came to office."

—*Thanksgiving Dinner for Senior Citizens, November 27, 1969*

"And I think all of you are aware of the fact that this is an evening that is a first . . . this is the first evening dinner that has been held in this room since I have been President of the United States."

—*Boys' Club Dinner, December 1, 1969*

"This is the first occasion at which we have hosted the Governors and their wives."

—*December 3, 1969*

"This is the first time in White House history that we have what is in effect an opportunity to see a dress rehearsal."

—*Bob Hope Dinner, December 14, 1969*

"We are very honored, for the first time in this house since we have been in the office that I presently occupy, to welcome the Prime Minister of Great Britain."

—*January 27, 1970*

"This will be my first tour of this kind of facility."

—*Remarks prior to Presidential inspection of the Hanover, Illinois, sewage treatment plant, February 6, 1970*

"This is the first time you have visited our country, and it is the first state visit of the President of France to the United States since President de Gaulle was here ten years ago."

—*Welcoming French President Pompidou, February 24, 1970*

"There is one reason why I trust that each of you who is interested in history will keep [your] program, because there will probably never be another one like it. . . . Ladies and gentlemen, in the 190-year history of this country . . . tonight, here in the Waldorf-Astoria, March 2, 1970, this is the first time in the history of the United States of America that the President has substituted for the Vice President of the United States."

—*Dinner honoring Pompidou, March 2, 1970*