

Nixon years marked by demonstrations in Boulder

Richard Nixon's only visit to Boulder was in October 1956, when, as vice president, he campaigned at CU's Macky Auditorium for re-election. He already had served one term with President Dwight Eisenhower. The country was enjoying an era of prosperity.

An enthusiastic crowd of more than 2,600 people packed the auditorium to hear Nixon speak. As he was introduced, 200 students paraded down the aisles and chanted, "We Want Dick." Nixon told a Daily Camera reporter that he had seen many demonstrations, but said, "This tops them all." Eisenhower and Nixon won their re-election.

In 1960, Nixon ran for president against John Kennedy. Nixon lost that election, but he tried again in 1968 and won against Hubert Humphrey.

After the election, first lady Pat Nixon came to Boulder for four hours in March 1970. She was on a national tour of student volunteer organizations and stopped to see on-the-job workers at Boulder Day Nursery, Boulder Manor Nursing Home, and the Carniel House, a residence for

adults with disabilities. At the time the nation was embroiled in the Vietnam War.

Many students were opposed to the War. The CU chapter of the Student Mobilization Committee showed its concerns by demonstrating during Pat Nixon's visit.

One hundred anti-war protesters stood outside the nursery school on Spruce and 15th streets, but only one arrest was made. Several children at the nursery were asked for their comments about Mrs. Nixon's visit. One little boy said, "The hippies don't want her here."

Student protests which followed no longer coincided with a visit by Nixon or his wife. In February 1971, students carried "U.S. Out of S.E. Asia Now" banners in another anti-war march. Four months later, after the passage of the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 18-year-olds were granted the right to vote. Nearly 7,000 CU students registered, and many become interested in politics for the first time.



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After the U.S. invasion of Cambodia, CU students demonstrated again. In April 1972, they barricaded the Denver-Boulder turnpike near Baseline Road and were tear-gassed by sheriff's officers.

The following June, in Washington, D.C., five men were arrested while breaking into the offices of the Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate apartment complex.

Nixon and his subordinates continually denied knowledge of the break-in. Their cover-up lasted through November 1972, when Nixon was reelected by an overwhelming majority for a second presidential term.

Afterward, a disclosures of scandals, labeled collectively as "Watergate," eroded public confidence and turned many of the newly enfranchised students against their president.

In October 1973, Nixon's cover-up of the Watergate break-in began to unravel. Approximately 150 students marched down

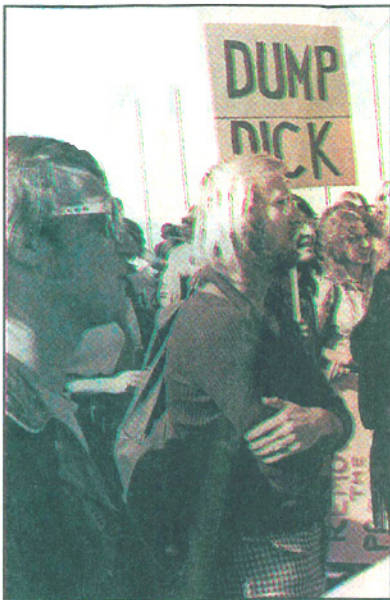
Broadway from the University Memorial Center on the CU campus, to the Courthouse.

The marchers circulated petitions for Nixon's impeachment and held signs which read, "Dump Dick," "Remove Nixon Now" and "No More Doubt, Get Nixon Out."

Precipitating the demonstration was the firing of Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox. However, one of the Boulder demonstrators, David Fishlow, stated that the Cox firing diverted attention from the real issue. He added, "We should be concerned with the slow, steady erosion of our civil liberties by direct action of Richard Nixon."

During the week of the impeachment demonstration, a Daily Camera reporter asked local residents for their opinions of President Nixon. Bernard Holmbraker said, "I think this is a simple issue of no man in America being above the law. If we are not a nation of laws, then this 200-year experiment of ours has failed."

Please see **NIXON** on 7B



DAILY CAMERA FILE

In October 1973, CU students rallied outside the courthouse and called for the impeachment of President Nixon.