

True Father's Meeting with President Nixon

February 1, 1974



The "Watergate Crisis" gripped the United States following exposure of White House involvement with a break-in at the Democratic Party's campaign headquarters during the 1972 presidential election.

True Father was concerned that the crisis was weakening America in the face of communist aggression and issued an "Answer to Watergate" statement on November 30, 1973, which called upon Americans to "Forgive, Love and Unite." True Father then launched a forty-day National Prayer and Fast for the Watergate Crisis (NPFWC). Unificationists conducted vigils, rallies, letter-writing and leafleting in all fifty states. At the National Christmas Tree lighting in Washington, D.C., in 1973, 1,200 pennant-waving, banner-carrying Unificationists from all over the country demonstrated in support of the president and garnered national attention.

President Richard Nixon emerged from the White House later that evening to personally thank the Unificationists who were holding a candlelight vigil across the street at Lafayette Square. True Father subsequently was invited to the annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast at the Washington Hilton Hotel on January 31, 1974. The next day, February 1, 1974, True Father had a twenty-minute meeting with President Nixon in the Oval Office of the White House. He reportedly told the president, "Don't knuckle under to pressure. Stand up for your convictions."