

David Eisenhower Says Nixon Will Stay

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (UPI)—President Nixon will not resign even if impeached by the House of Representatives, his son-in-law, David Eisenhower, said Tuesday.

Speaking with reporters, Mr. Eisenhower said: "I don't think there is the faintest possibility of him resigning under any circumstances, and impeachment is just not going to happen."

"This decision was made a long time ago—that he's never going to resign."

He added that the House had no "solid grounds" on which to approve a bill of impeachment. But he said "it would make no difference" if it did approve one, the President would not quit.

The interview with nearly a dozen members of the White House press corps was arranged by Mr. Nixon's communications director, Kenneth W. Clawson, and held in his quarters in the Executive Office Building. Mr. Clawson selected the reporters. It was part of a current campaign to help bolster public confidence in the President by making family members and supporters available to the news media.

Mr. Eisenhower, a grandson of the late President, described Mr. Nixon as a "brilliant man" with a "mind of steel."

He said that the President assumed that the 18½-minute erasure in a crucial June 20, 1972, taped conversation between the President and his former chief of staff, H. R. Halde- man, was "an accident."

Asked if Mr. Nixon thought his personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, had caused the accident, Mr. Eisenhower replied, "He's never said, 'I assume Rose Mary Woods erased

... said Mr. Nixon was con- ... he would not be im- ... and described him as

a man whose "spirits are really fine in the last few months."

He attributed this mood to the return of Congress and to Mr. Nixon's belief that he had turned the corner in shifting the focus of national attention from Watergate to the energy crisis and foreign policy.

He said that in terms of the family feelings, the President's order to invade Cambodia and the resulting antiwar demonstrations were "far more emotional" than Watergate problems.

"Watergate is not something that is taking the lives of people and spurring 50,000 people to demonstrate around the White House," Mr. Eisenhower said.

He said that President Nixon might have a "slight sense of remorse over the tragedy that has befallen individuals" as a result of Watergate, "but it's not something he lets obsess him or drive him." "It hasn't changed him," he added.

He said that he had been forewarned by Mr. Nixon last summer that the charges against then Vice President Agnew were "serious." Mr. Eisenhower described it as a "very emotional" two months "in which everyone was saddened by it."

But at the same time, he

said, the Nixon family experienced a sense of relief when Mr. Agnew resigned, pleading no contest to a charge of income tax evasion. He said that at that point Mr. Nixon felt that the momentum of his Administration would "pick up" again.

In terms of family conversations, Mr. Eisenhower said that "Watergate comes up all the time."

Other observations that he made were the following:

¶The Administration operates on the premise that it has nothing to hide in terms of Watergate.

¶Mr. Nixon is "upbeat," intensely involved in his work, and seeks his family's reaction on breaking news concerning the scandal.

¶Mr. Eisenhower's wife Julie "is tough—tough as hell"—and "honestly caught up in the emotional defense of her father. That's her character."

¶He watched every minute of the televised Senate Watergate hearings and reads several newspapers every day. "We know Mr. Nixon and we believe him," he said.

¶Mr. Nixon is "a strange man. He can get to the heart of things. He's really brilliant. No one can deny that."