

Daughter of Nixon Says He Considered Resigning

By United Press International

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., July 5—Mrs. David Eisenhower says that her father, President Nixon, considered resigning over Watergate, but his family talked him out of it. The family felt that resignation would be an "admission of wrongdoing," and that he was needed in the presidency, she said.

Mrs. Eisenhower said in an interview that the question of the President's resigning came up at a family gathering at Camp David, the President's mountaintop retreat, on May 4.

"He was playing the devil's advocate one evening, saying . . . well, see, the thing is, he really loves the country, and he'd do anything that was best for the country," she said.

"You know, he would say, 'Should I resign? Would it be better for the country? Would the wounds heal faster? Would it [the country] be able to move faster to other things?'"

"The Man for the Job"

"We said no. We didn't think we should, because resigning would be an admission of wrongdoing, and we also felt that he was the man for the job, and he had started things and needed to finish them.

"But he is really that kind of person. I think it was more than just a rhetorical question. I think he really thought, 'Will this end everything?'"

Mrs. Eisenhower was interviewed by two wire service reporters at a luncheon in the San Clemente Inn yesterday, two

days before her 25th birthday. Halfway through the meal, the inn owner wheeled in a chocolate birthday cake with white icing and one candle.

"I'm getting too old," she giggled. "It's silly to make a

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big deal about birthdays, really."

She dismissed as "ludicrous" the White House political "enemies" list disclosed in the Senate Watergate hearings and said that the President was "too busy to be concerned with petty, paranoid concerns."

"Something like the political enemies list just drives me up the wall," she said, "because I really believe my father is not that kind of person."

"I think events are going to vindicate him," she said. "I'm really not concerned. I believe that."

Press Called Obsessed

The President's daughter said that she believed the press was "obsessed with Watergate" and had not focused enough attention on Mr. Nixon's recent meeting with Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet leader.

At the outset of the Watergate affair, she said, she thought that her father "was terribly distressed and shaken because of the things he found out in March."

"Just realizing what the whole Watergate thing was,"

she said. "He was just really in the dark."

She said that the conversation about resigning took place on May 4, just four days after the resignation of the President's top aides, H. R. Halde- man, John D. Ehrlichman and John W. Dean 3d.

"The fact that he had to completely reorganize his staff that he depended heavily on, that is no longer there," she went on, "and he has certain working patterns and did things through his staff system. It's very orderly and an organized way of working. It's difficult to have an upheaval."

What struck Mr. Nixon the most?

"I guess just realizing what the whole Watergate thing was," Mrs. Eisenhower said. "I think he was just really in the dark."

Had Faith in Aides

"My father just had complete faith in everyone around him," she said, explaining why it had taken the President so long to realize something was wrong.

"I guess that's part of the whole tragedy of the thing."

"All I can say is that he was being assured that no one else in the White House was involved."

She said that Americans "should be disturbed" about the burglary and bugging of the Democratic party headquarters and the cover-up, but added:

"What really disturbs me greatly is that I feel the press has made a hero out of Daniel Ellsberg. He stole documents [the Pentagon papers]. He broke the law. It was a question of national security."

"This could have had much greater consequences than bugging the Democratic headquarters. The bugging was ludicrous, I don't know what they thought they were going to find out. The whole stupidity of it is just unreal."

She strongly defended diplomatic secrecy and wiretapping "if it is a question of national security."

When asked if the President had made any judgments of

President Out of Resigning

who let him down, Mrs. Eisenhower replied:

"No, he hasn't. And I don't know if he has in his own mind, but he hasn't discussed it with any of us."

Mood Is 'Very Good'

The President's present mood, she said, is "very good."

"He's moving ahead, and he's going to wait until the hearings are completed before he makes another statement on Watergate," she said. "I think that's only fair, not to prejudge."

She said the "thing that's really sad" is that the President "has always run his own political campaign, and this time he did not."

"He really did not campaign," she said. "He really was not involved. He let his campaign organization run it."

She said that she did not

believe the President "ever approved" the "enemies list."

"I haven't asked him about that, but first of all, it's so ludicrous, the idea of an enemy list, because everyone knows who is opposed to the Administration and who is a friend," she said.

"Writing about this just makes it sound so underhanded and all. I just don't feel it's a fair representation, because I know my father, and the kind of man he is, and he's not that way."