

Nixon Family's Concern Expressed by Daughters

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WASHINGTON, May 24— Mrs. David Eisenhower, mingling among the guests at a tea at the State Department for the wives, mothers and girlfriends of the former prisoners of war, said today that her mother "is holding up very well" under the strain of the Watergate case.

"Like my father, she's concerned that the case has overshadowed the work he's done over the past four years," the Nixons' younger daughter said, "but she's holding up very well."

Mrs. Nixon, meanwhile, greeted more than 600 women in an adjacent room on the sixth floor with a hand-clasp and a few words for each as they filed past her for several hours.

Many of the women at the tea, part of a day of special activities planned by the White House for the returned prisoners, wore quarter-size gold pins showing the Seal of the President of the United States. They said the pins, with smaller copies for daughters and cufflinks for sons, were presented to the families when they arrived in Washington.

Mrs. Edward F. Cox, the Nixons' older daughter, was

also present to welcome the guests. She said the whole family was "concerned" about Watergate.

"I think that my father really said it best in his statement that we really want to get the whole truth out," she said. "But meanwhile, there's a lot of important business to attend to."

Mrs. Cox described her father's mood these days as "very positive."

"Of course, you read things in the paper, but when you know what you've done is right, you have a very positive attitude," she said.

Mrs. Joyce F. Tyler of Mesa, Ariz., was one of the many women who asked Mrs. Nixon and her daughters to "thank the President" for bringing the prisoners home.

She said that her husband, Lieut. Col. Charles R. Tyler of the Air Force, who was imprisoned for five and a half years near Hanoi, felt that Watergate was "very minor; it's such a small thing compared to being free."

"He has so much admiration for the President that nothing can dim it," she said. "He feels the President is responsible for his freedom."