

Nixon Makes It Clear, No Resignation

By Jack Anderson

Personal friends who have visited President Nixon lately have found him more annoyed than dispirited over the Watergate revelations. What annoys him is the time Watergate has taken from his preparations for the summit meeting with Soviet party leader Leonid I. Brezhnev.

The President believes he established an understanding with Brezhnev in Moscow last year. They now trust one another enough to proceed with meaningful negotiations, the President suggests.

After Mr. Nixon's return from Iceland, he appeared haggard. But he explains this wasn't from worry over Watergate but from lack of sleep in Iceland. He found it difficult to sleep in the land of the midnight sun because even the blinds couldn't shut out the brightness at night.

Friends who ask how they can help with the Watergate problem get only an appreciative shrug from the President but no specific suggestions. He will leave it to them, he says, to decide what statements they wish to make in his support.

The mention of John Mitchell or Bob Haldeman causes the President merely to shake his head, as if he doesn't know what to think of his two former close advisers. The President insists he had no advance knowledge of the Watergate break-in or the obstruction of justice. "Stupid," is the

kindest word he has for the Waterbugging.

He recalls that he thought the best politics last year was to attend to the presidency, that he left the political tactics to "the boys."

But to all who ask, Richard Nixon makes one thing perfectly clear. He has no intention of resigning.

Fish Tale

For guppy lovers at the highest reaches of government, the taxpayers provide pet fish and an aquarist to attend them.

The aforesaid aquarist, known less loftily as a fish-tank tender, is Floyd Crawford. His calling in life is to service some 40 fish tanks that the National Aquarium has loaned to senators, representatives and other pampered poobahs of government.

Some of the fanciest fish—Blue Moons, Angel Fish and Kissing Gouramis—have been consigned to Vice President Agnew's domain. It's not Agnew who is infatuated with Kissing Gouramis, we have been informed, but his aides.

White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler, who refers to his liberal critics as "bleeding hearts," appropriately keeps Bleeding Heart Tetras in his office aquarium. However, the efficient Ziegler won't permit his office routine to be interrupted for the care and feeding of his blushing fish. The visiting aquarist has strict instructions never to tend Zieg-

ler's fish tank while the great man is in the office.

Perhaps the most menacing pet in the federal fishery is a miniature Black Shark on loan to George Gauzza, the Interior Department's boss of management operations.

But of all Washington's famous fish fanciers, none was more devoted than the late FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, whose bulldog visage and staccato speech were the terror of crooks and Communists. But he was a softie when it came to his pet gold fish.

At the first chill of winter, he would deliver his special goldfish to the National Aquarium to be looked after during the cold. But as soon as the weather warmed, Hoover's personal bodyguard would appear to pick up the golden dandies. If one of his goldfish appeared ill, Hoover would order an aide to call the aquarium for a diagnosis.

Marine Life

The aquarium is besieged with calls from bigwigs about their fish problems. One may want a red fish to go with the office decor. Others want their fish tanks moved from one side of the room to another, a maneuver that requires four men. One congressional office called six times in a single day about the illness of some Siamese fighting fish.

Once, Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) demanded a salt water tank, in which he wanted to display clams, lobsters and

other marine life native to his home state. The fish experts finally talked him out of it.

Every morning, aquarist Floyd Crawford climbs into his official government truck and begins his rounds. On a typical day, he might drop off some food for Indiana Sen. Vance Hartke's Australian Rainbows, then clean out Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye's fish tank.

In answer to an anxious call from Ohio Rep. William Minshall's office, Crawford might examine the congressman's red swordtails and pronounce them sick with ich. Then he might stop by Pennsylvania Rep. Joseph McDade's office and dip out a dead angel fish for a squeamish secretary.

Then he might drive downtown to inspect the aquarium of the Interior Department's communications director, Robert Kelly, who is down to two fish and is complaining about it. Next, there are fish tanks at the U.S. Information Agency and General Services Administration that need tending.

There's one fish story the folks at the National Aquarium would rather not talk about. They supplied a government bigshot, whose name they don't or won't recall, with a tank full of African Rift Lake Cichlids. The official bred some little ones and then had the audacity to ask the aquarium to purchase them from him.