

Effect Upon The Wives

[L.A. Times Service]

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Until about noon yesterday [the day following Nixon's televised speech of the day before], Mrs. Nixon was unreachable, even to members of her own staff.

When [her press secretary, Mrs. Helen Smith] finally talked with the First Lady, she said the conversation was brief. "She knew I had been trying to get her and she didn't want to talk to anybody," Mrs. Smith said. "She obviously feels very deeply about this and is quite upset."

Mrs. Smith said the First Lady, her daughter Tricia Cox, and her son-in-law David Eisenhower, had watched the President's message.

Shortly after the speech, Mrs. Smith said, Tricia Cox sent word to the White House switchboard that the family did not wish to be disturbed unless a call came through from the Nixons' younger daughter, Julie Eisenhower, who was in Florida for a series of official appearances.

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A second member of the First Lady's press staff, Terry Ivey, said that Mrs. Nixon had seemed unusually withdrawn this week..... "I know they've been through other things before, but this has certainly got to be the most serious .....