

White House Denies Talk of Resignation

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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The White House yesterday denied that President Nixon may be reconsidering his decision not to resign and emphasized that he is continuing to plan for another summit meeting in Moscow next month.

The denial came after Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) suggested that the President might resign if the House impeaches him, and after Vice President Ford expressed concern that the impact of Watergate might adversely affect arms limitation talks.

Although the President and his aides are continuing the campaign against impeachment and to win public support, reliable witnesses have reported that Mr. Nixon is deeply depressed at times by the attacks on him and that he is exceedingly tired physically.

All this week the President has spent his days secluded in his Executive Office Building office except for occasional brief meetings with officials in his Oval Office.

While the official word is that he is optimistic and working hard on public business, some aides have acknowledged that his morale at times is extremely low and that all members of his family have been acutely upset by the continuing Watergate fight.

Nevertheless, the campaign



REV. JOHN McLAUGHLIN
... defends President

for public support continues, with the chief argument yesterday being made by the Rev. John McLaughlin, a Catholic priest who joined the Nixon staff three years ago as a speech writer.

McLaughlin, at a press conference arranged by Commu-
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Director Ken W. Clawson, defended the President as a moral man who was "thirsting for the truth" and showed compassion for people in his administration.

McLaughlin said he was not directing his remarks at Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.), who the day before said that the transcripts of the tapes portrayed "deplorable, disgusting, shabby, immoral performances," but he said he took "sharp issue with that point of view."

McLaughlin, who no longer wears clerical garb and is now a deputy assistant to the President working on various assignments, said accusations of immorality against Mr. Nixon are

"erroneous, unjust and contain elements of hypocrisy."

The President has "acquitted himself with honor," McLaughlin said.

The presidential tapes would fill some 500 volumes, he said, and to take one and say that the President is immoral or amoral "is unjust and politically tendentious," he said.

McLaughlin defended the President's use of expletives, arguing that Presidents Lincoln, Truman, Kennedy and Johnson used strong language in private conversations.

The President's use of profanity is "a form of emotional drainage," he said, "a form of therapy, a form of release."

In the presidential office, and there is no reconsideration of it. profanity can create a climate in which people will speak frankly, the priest argued.

"The President is not a god living on Mt. Olympus," he said. "He is a human being with human imperfections." But he acknowledged that "the presidency has been enfeebled" by the Watergate battle. He said he thought it was a mistake to make any of the tapes public.

However, McLaughlin said he could not "contemplate any set of circumstances in which President Nixon would resign."

Mr. Nixon is scheduled to take his anti-impeachment campaign to Middle America Saturday with a commencement address at Oklahoma State University.

One indication of Middle-American sentiment came yesterday from Nebraska, where the Omaha World-Herald, a faithful Nixon supporter in the past, urged him to resign.

The President's accomplishments "are overshadowed by the appallingly low level of political morality in the White House, as indicated in a variety of ways in recent months and confirmed now in damning detail by the White House tapes," the World-Herald said in an editorial.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren, asked if the President was reconsidering his decision against resigning, said that Mr. Nixon's position has been made "very clear"

"We don't believe the President will be impeached," he said.

Referring to the planned Moscow visit, Warren said, "I can assure you once again that the President never approaches any negotiation from a position of weakness and will not approach this negotiation from a position of weakness."

Warren's comment was provoked by Vice President Ford's remarks to reporters accompanying him to New York earlier this week that he was disturbed because Mr. Nixon might appear weakened in the eyes of Soviet negotiators.

The Vice President, according to a Los Angeles Times reporter who was with him, said the Russians might conclude that they are under no pressure to give ground to the United States.

After the report was published, Ford issued a statement saying he was disturbed by the Senate's rejection of an administration request for additional funds for Vietnam.

"I observed that in the present Watergate climate any votes by the Congress to cripple the defense budget or commitments to our allies make it much more difficult for the President to negotiate for peace," the statement said.