

White House Hope

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Tension Eases A Bit

Washington

"Don't worry," President Nixon told one of his cabinet officers today, "there isn't any chance whatever" that he will resign.

The phrase "don't worry" seemed to describe the mood of the White House, or, at least, the face it was putting on.

Last week, a harried, tired White House staff spent most of its time responding to the storm of criticism that followed the release of the edited presidential Watergate transcripts and in denying rumors that Mr. Nixon was about to resign.

Yesterday, however, White House aides seemed to be conveying the feeling that while the storm is not over, the President will be able to weather it.

During the regular White House briefing yesterday morning, deputy press secretary Gerald Warren depicted Mr. Nixon as actively engaged in handling the affairs of the nation.

Warren reported that the President had been following "with great interest" efforts by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to negotiate a disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces.

He said that the President's plans to travel to Moscow in June have not been altered and indicated that a presidential visit to the Middle East is still under active consideration.

The business-as-usual mood was underscored by the President's meeting yesterday with Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Caspar Weinberger to discuss the status of pending health and education legislation.

However, Weinberger,



AP Wirephoto

President Nixon talked with Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Caspar Weinberger yesterday at the White House

who after meetings with the President in recent months has insisted that only programs and legislation were discussed, acknowledged to reporters after yesterday's meeting that resignation had been discussed.

Weinberger said he urged the President not to resign.

He said the President told him, "Don't worry. There isn't any chance of that whatever."

The White House yesterday also resumed its counter attack against critics of the President. Warren charged at the news briefing that there is "a concerted campaign" to discredit Mr. Nixon.

Referring to an article that appeared in Sunday editions of the New York Times, which said that ethnic slurs had been deleted

from the Watergate transcripts, Warren said that the White House had known for some weeks of "a considered effort by someone to get this fallacious story into print."

Warren added: "We do feel this demonstrates the vindictiveness of some people that has developed over the past months in trying to discredit the President of the United States."

He would not say who he thinks the "someone" or "some people" might be.

In general, the White House appeared to be more confident and spirited than at any time since the transcripts were released two weeks ago.

Ken W. Clawson, White House director of communications, insisted that the decision to release the tran-

scripts would be vindicated in the long run.

Early in the Watergate scandal, Clawson said, the President was charged with planning the burglary of the Democratic National Committee that touched off the scandal.

After that he was accused of planning the coverup, he added.

Now, after the release of the transcripts, Clawson said, the President is being accused of immorality.

"That is not much of a charge for an impeachment trial," he asserted.

He added that he is convinced that the public eventually will realize that the President's actions, as depicted by the edited transcripts, were not improper.

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