

'Don't Worry,' Nixon Says, No Chance That He'll Quit

**President Assures Weinberger While
Aides Convey Feeling He'll Weather
Storm—Warren Assails Critics**

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By PHILIP SHABECOFF MAY 14 1974

WASHINGTON, May 13 — "Don't worry," President Nixon told one of his Cabinet officers today, assuring him that "there isn't any chance whatever" that he would 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 President Nixon was about to resign.

Today, however, White House aides seemed to be conveying the feeling that while the storm was not over, the President would be able to weather it.

Nixon Depicted As Busy

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

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

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

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

Resignation Discussed

However, Secretary Weinberger, who had insisted after meetings with the President in recent months that only programs and legislation were discussed, acknowledged to reporters after today's meeting that Mr. Nixon's resignation had been discussed.

Mr. Weinberger said he had urged the President not to resign. He said the President had told him: "Don't worry. There isn't any chance of that whatever."

The White House also resumed its counterattack today against critics of the President. Mr. Warren charged at the news briefing that there was

"a concerted campaign" to discredit President Nixon.

Referring to an article in Sunday editions of The New York Times, which quoted sources as saying that ethnic slurs had been deleted from the Watergate transcripts, Mr. Warren said that the White House had known for some weeks of "a considered effort by someone to get this fallacious story into print."

'Vindictiveness' Seen

Mr. Warren added that "we do not feel this demonstrates the vindictiveness of some people that has developed over the past several months in trying to discredit the President of the United States."

He would not say who he thought 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, the White House director of communications, insisted that the decision to release the transcripts would be vindicated in the long run.

Early in the Watergate scandal, Mr. Clawson said, the President was charged with planning the burglary of the offices of the Democratic National Committee here that touched off the scandal. After that he was charged with planning the cover-up, he added.

A New Accusation

Now, after the release of the tapes, Mr. 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 was convinced that the public would eventually realize that the President's actions, as depicted by the transcripts, had not been improper.

The ebbing of the tension that seemed to pervade the White House last week was reportedly reflected at a luncheon given by Mrs. Nixon today for the wives of Senators.

These are the wives of men who may sit in judgment of President Nixon in a few months if the House of Representatives passes a bill of impeachment. According to eyewitness reports, the luncheon, presided over by a smiling Mrs. Nixon, was relaxed and cheerful.