

President, in an Interview, Insists He Won't Resign

WASHINGTON, May 16 (AP)—President Nixon says he has given long thought to the possibility of resignation but has decided he will not quit “under any circumstances,” a newspaper columnist reports.

Mr. Nixon's vow not to resign was reported in an interview with James J. Kilpatrick published in today's Washington Star-News.

The conservative columnist wrote that Mr. Nixon had said he would not surrender his office even temporarily to Vice President Ford.

If the House of Representatives votes impeachment, Mr. Nixon said, he will accept the verdict “with good grace” and then defend himself to the very end before the Senate, the columnist wrote.

Mr. Kilpatrick said that he spent one hour 20 minutes with the President in his Oval Office Tuesday in a session he described as “more of a monologue than an interview.”

Bugging and Bombing

Besides pledging not to resign, Mr. Nixon was said to have made these disclosures:

“During his 1968 campaign for the White House, “there was not only surveillance by the F.B.I., but bugging by the F.B.I., and J. Edgar Hoover told me that my plane in the last two weeks was bugged.”

“His “loneliest decision of all,” to resume bombing of the Hanoi-Haiphong areas of North Vietnam in December, 1972, was, in Mr. Kilpatrick's words, “opposed by all his Cabinet members save one, and supported only by John Connally.” Mr. Connally, ormer Secretary of the Treasury, left the Cabinet earlier that year to be-

come head of Democrats for Nixon during the Presidential campaign.

“He believes “we had no choice” but to make public the edited transcripts of Watergate-related conversations, and he sees no reason to permit technicians to examine the tapes because “we've already done that.”

Several times in the 3,000-word article distributed by the Washington Star Syndicate, Inc. Mr. Kilpatrick quoted Mr. Nixon as rejecting calls for him to step down rather than face impeachment process.

“I would have to rule out resignation. And I would have to rule out the rather fatuous suggestion that I take the 25th Amendment and just step out and have Vice President Ford step in for a while,” Mr. Nixon said.

“If the House should vote an impeachment, and we go to trial by the Senate, of course I would follow that course,” Mr. Nixon was quoted as saying. “It would be immensely time-consuming, but I could do it and I would do it for reasons that are not —what do you call it—those of a toreador in the ring, trying to prove himself, but I would do it because I have given long thought to what is best for the country, our system of government and the constitutional process.”

Mr. Kilpatrick is a long-time Nixon supporter who in the past has been sometimes sharply critical of Mr. Nixon's Watergate role.

“It seemed evident,” he wrote, “that the President has lost the edge of sharp incisiveness that he exhibited a few years ago.”