

Phoenix Drops Its Fight for Nixon

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Special to The New York Times

PHOENIX, Ariz., Aug. 8 — This city, a center of conservative Republicanism that has had a long love affair with Richard M. Nixon, was apparently emotionally prepared today to accept his resignation.

In recent days it became apparent that the city was changing from a posture of wholehearted support for Mr. Nixon to one of gloomy surrender. Many of those who had spent months defending Mr. Nixon were unwilling to fight any longer.

Instead of staying home to write hot letters to the editor or to endorse more petitions, they returned to normal. They played cards. They played golf. They sunned themselves at their swimming pools. They went shopping. And they went to work.

This gave the city a curious air of "who cares?"

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Presidential defenders were on every corner. Today, hardly anyone wanted to talk about it.

'Pretty Gloomy'

There was little stir in the state headquarters of the Arizona Republican party in north Phoenix today. Several secretaries typed a voter list or letters in preparation for this fall's campaign for Governor and the Senate, but their hearts weren't in it.

"Things are pretty gloomy," said the party's executive director, James W. Spürlock.

Even some of Mr. Nixon's strongest public supporters agreed that the time had come for his resignation. All five of the Republican candidates for Governor of Arizona praised

the resignation as a way out of a political impasse.

The President's close friend, Senator Barry Goldwater, was one of the few Phoenix residents who said he had not yet decided that Mr. Nixon should quit. Another was Arizona Gov. Jack Williams, who said last night that Mr. Nixon should stay in office and fight it out.

But in the bars, the restaurants and the shopping centers, those who did talk about the situation said Mr. Nixon's resignation was the best course for him and for the nation.

Rehnquist and Kleindienst

Up until Monday, however, when Mr. Nixon admitted he had not been telling the truth, most of Phoenix had defended him like a mother denfending a child.

The city had shown its regard for him in 1972, giving him 224,593 votes to 96,135 for Senator George McGovern, his Democratic opponent.

Mr. Nixon reciprocated,

A Normal Alert Status Is Set for U.S. Forces

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8, (Reuters)—The Defense Department indicated today that American military forces around the world would remain on a normal alert status during any change in the Presidency.

"The activity of the armed forces continues as normal. There is no reason to change," a spokesman said when asked what the military status would be during a transfer of power from President Nixon to Vice President Ford.

choosing a Supreme Court Justice from Phoenix, William A. Rehnquist; an Attorney General, Richard G. Kleindienst, and one of his top assistants, Dean Burch.

Mr. Nixon's defenders did not go down without a few last licks. On Monday they were still bombarding the local newspapers with letters to the editors, asserting that Mr. Nixon was a victim of a plot by the TV networks and the newspapers.

Some criticism of the efforts to impeach Mr. Nixon were more reasoned.

John A. Robertson, a Phoenix patent attorney, said he did not think Mr. Nixon had done anything that justified impeachment. "He has done no more than all the Presidents before him," Mr. Robertson maintained. "Mr. Nixon's problem is that he is a President from the minority party and Congress is out to get him."

A Phoenix radio station set up a microphone at the city airport today and asked the travelers what they thought. The travelers were more outspoken than Phoenix residents. "Good riddance to Nixon," said a traveling salesman from California. "He is a crook and ought to be in jail."

But even Phoenix has had some who have not admired Mr. Nixon as President. "I always felt Nixon should be impeached," said Don Shields, a porter. "We don't have any government left. Everybody's been kicked out."

Mrs. Dee Dee Arnold, a Phoenix legal secretary, said yesterday that Mr. Nixon should not quit if he is innocent. "I have a slogan about this," she said. "If you're right, fight. If you're wrong, so long."

8-9-74

NYT