

Only Nixon Is Serene At Sad White House

NYTimes By PHILIP SHABECOFF AUG 9 1974

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—On his 2,027th and penultimate day as President of the United States, with his staff and family unable to conceal their anguish, Richard M. Nixon went composedly through the schedule of a busy President.

He met with his Vice President and the bipartisan leadership of Congress. He appointed Federal judges, accepted resignations from executive agencies and signed several laws.

He vetoed as inflationary an appropriation bill for the Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency.

He also announced, over national television, that tomorrow he would resign his high office.

At 12:30 this afternoon, the White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, announced that the President would address the nation at 9 P.M.

Mr. Ziegler did not say what

the speech would be about. He did not have to. He choked on his words several times and was struggling visibly to keep himself under control as he left the rostrum of the packed but hushed briefing room at the White House.

The young women who work in the press office went through the motions of their jobs while tears streamed down their faces.

But the President himself, according to his appointments secretary, Steven Bull, was "unbelievably serene."

"I've seen him like this after a tough decision has been made," said Mr. Bull, who works in close proximity to the President. "Yesterday I saw a degree of anguish. Today there is an acceptance of whatever it is he is going to do."

Mr. Bull said that the President was "calm, in control, con-

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tent with himself."

"I would have to describe it as an inner peace." He added, using a term employed in the past by Mr. Nixon to describe his emotional state.

Another White House aide close to the President said that Mr. Nixon underwent "a very emotional and draining" experience yesterday while arriving at the decision to resign.

"It has been a very tough time for him," but now he is responding in a "soldierly" fashion, the aide said.

He disclosed that the President's family had opposed resignation to the end. But Mr. Nixon, he said, "had really been trying to weigh what was in the national interest."

"Having faced the necessity of his decision, he has been trying to go about it in as decent and statesmanlike a way as he can," the official said.

While the President was working in the Oval Office and later in the old Executive Office Building, his family—his wife Pat, his daughters Julie and Tricia and their husbands David Eisenhower and Edward F. Cox—stayed together in the East Wing of the White House.

When asked what the family did today, Mrs. Nixon's assistant press secretary, Patty Matson, said she did not know because the press office had not disturbed the family over the last few days.

"This is a very private time for them," she said.

She responded angrily when asked what the mood of the family was, snapping, "How can you ask such a ridiculous question at a time like this?"

Then she said, "I'm sorry—I know you're just doing your job," and burst in tears.

Mr. Nixon and his family reportedly will fly to their San morning, before Gerald R. Ford takes the oath of office and succeeds him as President.

According to unconfirmed reports, the Nixon family will travel aboard a Government jet, but not Air Force One.

His aides said that Mr. Nixon spent a good part of the day working on his speech. One official said that while speech writers were helping the President, he was doing much of the writing himself.

"He wants this to be his speech," the aide said.

The President also met with

his chief of staff, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., and Mr. Ziegler, his two closest associates since the departure of H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman on April 30, 1973.

Shortly before 7:30 P.M. Mr. Nixon, wearing a blue suit and red tie, walked alone from the White House to the Executive Office Building to meet the Congressional leaders.

He spent several minutes with his family before going to face the members of Congress. At his request, no Secret Service agents accompanied him on the short walk. But while he was between the two buildings, newsmen were locked inside the briefing room without being told the reason.

Meeting him were Senators James O. Eastland, president pro tem of the Senate; Mike Mansfield, the Senate Majority leader; Hugh Scott, the minority leader; Representative Carl Albert, the Speaker of the House, and Representative John J. Rhodes, the House Minority leader.

Tomorrow, Mr. Nixon will return to private life. He faces a multitude of problems, including the need to raise mortgage payments for his property. He

has not before today discussed what he intends to do. He is by formal training a lawyer, but most of his adult life has been devoted unreservedly to politics and public service.

Outside the White House, the weather was hot with a sky obscured by dirty gray clouds that occasionally dropped brief showers on the city. It was fairly typical August weather in Washington and was somehow suited to the mood of this grim but historic day.

In his speech of April 30, 1973, in which he pledged to see that justice was done in the Watergate case, Mr. Nixon noted that there were "exactly 1,361 days remaining in my term. I want these to be the best days in America's history, because I love America."

Adding that America was the only hope of millions of people throughout the world, he said, "I ask for your prayers to help me in everything that I do throughout the days of my Presidency to be worthy of their hopes and of yours."

Tomorrow, Richard Nixon will leave office 895 days before the second term of his Presidency was to have expired.

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