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Friends Say Mrs. Nixon Is Doing OK

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Pat Nixon hasn't seemed particularly distressed since her husband's resignation as President, friends say.

But she has remained in seclusion at the family estate at San Clemente, or at the Walter Annenberg estate at Palm Springs since Richard M. Nixon resigned.

Her former press secretary, Helen Smith, said Mrs. Nixon is "keeping busy doing a lot of things around the house — unpacking, cleaning and answering mail."

One friend, Helene Drown of Rolling Hills, said: "She sees in Watergate an attempt by some people to get 'her husband's last pound of flesh.' But I don't think Watergate has affected her any more than any crisis they've gone through. Pat Nixon's motto has always been 'It's better to laugh than to cry.'"

Patricia Reilly Hitt, another friend, said Mrs. Nixon could be expected to be under stress and faces "an enormous adjustment" from public life.

"But there will be strength," Mrs. Hitt said. "It may take several months, but when she's ready, Pat Nixon will sally forth."

Associated Press