

Korff: Pardon Unsolicited



RABBI BARUCH KORFF

PROVIDENCE, Oct. 6 (AP) —President Nixon said three days before he resigned Aug. 9 that he was willing to go to jail and did not want to be pardoned, Rabbi Baruch Korff was quoted as saying by today's Providence Journal-Bulletin.

The paper quoted Korff, who has organized a fund to help pay Mr. Nixon's legal fees, as saying that Mr. Nixon told him, "If they want to put me behind bars, let them do it."

President Ford has since pardoned Mr. Nixon and he has accepted the pardon.

Korff made the comments in an interview detailing a conversation he said he had alone with President Nixon on Aug. 6 in the Executive Office Building.

Korff, who at that time was heading the National Citizens' Committee for Fairness to the Presidency, said he had been summoned by the Nixon family to Washington Aug. 4 and had been trying to convince the President and his family that Mr. Nixon should not resign, the Journal-Bulletin said.

According to the account of Korff's version of the conversation:

Korff said he and Mr. Nixon discussed a possible resignation and the President said: "Now if I do not resign that means I have to devote the next eight months to an impeachment trial."

Korff said Mr. Nixon spoke of inflation problems that might be ignored during that

period. "He knew the country would suffer," Korff said.

Korff said he then asked Mr. Nixon: "Do you think that after toppling you your detractors will stop? That Watergate will be laid to rest?"

"Then he said, 'You did quite a job on my family convincing them Nixon should not resign. I wish you would dissuade them from pressuring me not to resign.'"

"I said, 'Your detractors will pursue you, they will try to demean you and demean the office. They will drag you through every court.'"

"And he said, 'If they want to put me behind bars, let them do it. I don't want legislation and I don't want a pardon.'"

"I finally yielded," Korff said.