

Julie Insists

Father to Stay

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By Donnie Radcliffe

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President Nixon will wage his battle to remain in office "constitutionally, down the wire" as long as even one senator still believes in him, Julie Nixon Eisenhower said yesterday.

"If the [House Judiciary] committee votes a bill of impeachment, if the House goes through with it, if it goes to the Senate, he's said that if there is only one senator that it's going to be a constitutional process," the President's younger daughter told reporters in the East Garden of the White House.

In a voice at times quavering with emotion, Mrs. Eisenhower, with husband, David, at her side, categorically denied that Mr. Nixon intends to resign his embattled presidency under any circumstances.

She said her father had discussed that possibility the night before during a family outing aboard the presidential yacht, Sequoia.

"He had a very great quote—that he would take this 'constitutionally down the wire.' He said he would go to the Senate and he said if there were one senator that believed in him that that's the way it would be."

Standing beneath a grape arbor in the garden formerly named for Jacqueline Kennedy, the young Eisenhowers appeared resolute in their extraordinary joint effort to assure the media that there was no substance to rumors that Mr. Nixon will leave office soon.

"I don't know how the rumor got started," Mrs. Eisenhower said, "but there really is no truth to it at all. He's stronger now than he ever has been in his determination to see this thing through."

Once she was near anger as a television newsman asked why she was answering questions for her father.

"I want to try to control myself," Mrs. Eisenhower in-

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errupted, "and answer your question because it really does wound me. I'm here to answer the questions because Helen Smith Mrs. Nixon's press secretary said she received 55 phone calls from members of the media wanting to know the family's reaction and wanting to know if my father is going to resign.

"Now if the media has a hangup," Mrs. Eisenhower continued, her dark eyes flashing and her voice trembling, "an obsession about resignation and feels they must be reassured by members of the family that my father is not going to resign, I feel as a daughter it is my obligation to come out here and say 'no, he is not going to resign.'"

It was an appearance, however, that went against her father's wishes, she said, "because he doesn't want anyone to construe that I'm trying to answer questions for him."

She wasn't trying to do that, she said, but instead "I'm just trying to pray to have courage to meet his courage."

Young Eisenhower viewed the congressional and public reaction much as "the (Archibald) Cox thing" last October when Mr. Nixon fired his Watergate special prosecutor and Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus resigned.

"If you think of the outcry in terms of the outcry last October and how that thing was resolved . . . at least in terms of resignation, I think you can apply that to the situation right now."

As Eisenhower recalled it, "four or five weeks later it became evident by the President's action, demeanor in public and determination to stay on in office that he was not going to resign. This [transcripts] outcry is a week old. Wait four weeks . . ."

Slippage of congressional support was distressing, the President's daughter said, "but I don't think that four people who call for his res-

ignation in Congress is an avalanche."

As for any immorality Mr. Nixon might have displayed in connection with the transcripts, Mrs. Eisenhower could only characterize that impression by saying, "He is reacting because he is human."

Nor could she see how anyone could be shocked by the transcript, she said. What emerged was "a human being reacting to a situation where he saw his dreams crumbling down around him" as he weighed the situation, explored the alternatives.

Her own reaction to editorials focusing on tone and morality of the tapes was that until two weeks ago, "the emphasis was 'Was Dean telling the truth? Did the President know about the break-in . . . or the cover-up?'"

Quite the contrary, she continued. They proved that Mr. Nixon did not. ("Twelve times in the transcripts he expressed complete and utter shock at what happened," she said at another point).

"So we've left the issue behind and now we're going to a new set of issues."

If there has been any low point in Mr. Nixon's mood, throughout the unfolding Watergate scandal, according to David Eisenhower it came "at the initial impact . . ."

"It did," his wife interrupted, emphasizing the time more than a year ago when Mr. Nixon says he first realized what was happening.

"When," Eisenhower continued, "his friends, associates, comrades in arms, political associates that went back to 1952, when these people left, it hurt him very deeply and he went through two or three weeks very low. But his spirit has recovered and he's been on par ever since."

Mrs. Eisenhower said she felt strongly that "it would be a bad precedent to set for a President to resign unless there were criminal action. It's just not the American system of government . . . This is a constitutional issue at this point."