

Nixon's Story About Kissinger's Cold Feet

New York

Former President Nixon's second interview with David Frost tells of Henry Kissinger's "cold feet" after the Cambodian invasion and Kissinger's hints at resignation, Newsweek magazine says in its current issue.

Nixon's second of four interviews with Frost Thursday night focuses on foreign policy and "by advance billing" offers "fresh material aplenty for the history books," Newsweek said.

Frost is paying Nixon \$600,000 for the interviews.

Newsweek says Frost in "no longer the relentless prosecutor" of the first debate about the Watergate scandal which drove Nixon from office and that the former President is no longer "the harried defender."

Instead Nixon, who resigned the presidency Aug. 9, 1974, "ranges with expansive ease over the triumphs of foreign policy he hopes will finally retrieve his reputation."

Reminiscing about former Secretary of State Kissinger, Nixon tells how he would counter the diplomat's doubts about some action taken, as in Cambodia, with "remember Lot's wife," meaning not to look back.

The Biblical wife of Lot was turned into a pillar of salt by God because she defied an admonition not to look back at the destruction of Gomorrah because of its sins.

Nixon also tells Frost how Kissinger, who initially was adviser for national security affairs, tried to exclude then Secretary of State William Rogers from "some key decisions," Newsweek said.

Nixon says Kissinger "would hint it (resignation) on occasion. Ah—not many, not often . . . He would come in and say, 'Well I just wonder if my usefulness . . .'"

He said Kissinger "was for going in" to Cambodia with U.S. troops in 1970 but "then came Kent State, which was a terrible emotional shock to me—ah—and a very great shock to Kissinger.

"And of course a torrent of abuse, because the implication was that because we did Cambodia, three students (actually four) were killed in Kent State . . . Right after that, Henry came in and said:

"You know, I'm not sure that we should have gone into this Cambodian thing, and perhaps now has come the time when we should . . . get out a little sooner . . ."

Nixon says Kissinger also warned Nixon the invasion of the Parrot's Beak area of Cambodia might have been a mistake. But Newsweek says Nixon did not believe Kissinger meant it.

In specific reminiscences, Newsweek says Nixon describes:

- Discontent with the quality of intelligence he received on the eve of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

- "Petit-point details" from the summits with Soviet Communist party leader Leonid Brezhnev and the late Chinese Communist party chairman Mao Tse-tung, with remarks on Brezhnev's cuff links and Mao's hands, which Nixon thought "surprisingly smooth, young and gentle of gesture."

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