

Chotiner Resigns Post at White House

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WASHINGTON, March 4 — Murray M. Chotiner, President Nixon's longtime political adviser, resigned from the White House staff today to enter private law practice here.

It was clear, however, that neither the President nor Mr. Chotiner expected to end their long political relationship.

"Please know that, should the occasion arise when I may be helpful, a phone call from one of your staff is all that will be required to enlist me for the cause," Mr. Chotiner wrote in his letter of resignation.

"It is good to know," Mr. Nixon responded, "I can continue to call on you for assistance. You can be sure that I will.

The exchange appeared to confirm reports, published in January by The New York Times, that Mr. Chotiner would leave the White House to begin quietly preparing for the 1972 Presidential election.

In an interview today, Mr. Chotiner said it would be "a mistake" to assume that he would engage in politics while he was counsel to the law firm of Reeves & Harrison.



Associated Press

Murray M. Chotiner

He said, "1971 is not an election year." But in the next breath he added, "That doesn't mean you can't be thinking about '72 in '71."

Mr. Chotiner said he could not say whether Mr. Nixon would seek a second term. He also said, however, that he had no doubts himself that the President should run again. The reason he gave may well shed light on the current White House strategy toward the 1972 election.

"Any man who has come forth with as many programs for streamlining the Government as [Mr. Nixon] has should run," Mr. Chotiner said. "He ought to stay in office so he has a chance to put them into practice. It's questionable whether he can get all the reforms enacted by 1972."

Mr. Chotiner, who is 61 years old, has been a special counsel to the President since January, 1970. His specialty was politics.

He has worked for Mr. Nixon's election to a variety of offices since 1946.

Over the years, Mr. Chotiner, who is regarded as a master technician by some politicians and as a "hatchet man" by others, has assumed a less visible role while continuing to advise Mr. Nixon.