

Will Julie Be The One?

By Marlene Cimon
Los Angeles Times

Washington

Julie Nixon Eisenhower,
the candidate?

Why not?

During the past five years her husband, David, a law student whose grandfather was President Dwight D. Eisenhower, has been the one mentioned over and over by Republicans as a good prospective asset for the party, largely because of his political bloodline.

And he did tell the Los Angeles Times several months ago that in pre-Watergate times he was seriously considering going after the seat held by the retiring Republican congressman from Loganville, Pa., 78-year-old George Goodling.

But it has been his 26-year-old wife, carrying the stamp of two political names, who has become the most public member of the family, the one who voluntarily moved herself out front this past year as her father's No. 1 defender, impressing many people with her willingness to put herself on the firing line.

Because of this, and probably also as a result of a more favorable current political climate for women, her name — not David's — has been mentioned with increasing frequency.

"Both Julie and David are real students of government," said Ann Armstrong, White House counselor to Mr. Nixon, and now to Mr. Ford. "They have the gift of birth, and have made the most of it. Both would be excellent candidates."

Although many critics of Mr. Nixon have confessed to a soft spot for Mrs. Eisenhower, one New York-based political writer with an admitted anti-Nixon bias who has covered Washington off and on for the past eight months, Nora Ephron, was harsh in a lengthy column last December about her.

"The Washington press corps thinks that Julie Nixon Eisenhower is the only member of the Nixon Ad-



JULIE EISENHOWER
A GOP prediction

ministration who has any credibility — and as one journalist put it, this is not to say that anyone believes what she is saying but simply that people believe she believes what she is saying," she wrote in New York magazine.

"They will tell you that she is approachable, which is true, and that she is open, which is not."

Ms. Ephron quoted Mrs. Eisenhower as saying that she would "just fold up and wither and fall away" if her father were forced from office, and went on to write: "What is more likely is that she will lose her temper in public, vanish for a couple of years and then crop up in politics again."

According to her friends, Julie Eisenhower has not folded up and withered away. And she did not lose her temper in public when her father resigned.

It is likely, however, her friends say, that Ms. Ephron's last two predictions will come true, that she will disappear from public life for awhile, and then surface again in politics.

Mrs. Eisenhower, who was raised from \$10,000 to \$15,000 after a promotion at the Saturday Evening Post magazine, has compiled a soon-to-be-published book of children's stories, which includes one story about a White House dog she wrote herself.