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In terms of Haldemand and Ehrlichman, Mr. Nixon said that he had accepted the resignations of - quote - "two of my closest friends and most trusted assistants in the White House." And news secretary Ronald Ziegler elaborated.

Ziegler [voice]: The President stated that throughout his association with the two men, each has demonstrated a spirit of selflessness and dedication that he has seldom seen equaled. The President is grateful for their enormous contribution to the work of this Administration, and he greatly regrets their departure. [End, Ziegler excerpt.]

Edwards: But former Republican National Chairman, Robert Dole of Kansas, had a more critical comment to make about the departure of the two highest White House aides.

Dole [voice]: My feeling is that anyone who had any contact with the Watergate - not suggesting any criminal activity, but with any contact or was in a position where he had to handle the Watergate - should probably leave, but that's a judgment that he'll make in consultation with the President. But at least we've removed the symbol of arrogance in the resignations of Haldeman and Ehrlichman.

Edwards: Democratic National Chairman [Robert] Strauss says he is delighted that the White House has made this positive move and is waiting for tonight to see what the President has to say to further reassure the people.

Strauss [voice]: The resignations are only one small step, to paraphrase, and we of course are going to continue to be, as the public is going to be, and as I would hope the President will be - that's unrelenting in his demand and his search for the truth and for the facts of this. Keep in mind that up to now we still have heard nothing - we've heard nothing - in a positive way, other than "Everything we have said up to date is inoperative."

[End of item.]