

# President: Sailing and Silence

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By Austin Scott

Washington Post Staff Writer

KEY BISCAIYNE, Fla., May 6—The weather has been nearly perfect this weekend for taking minds off troubles—brilliant, hot sunshine bouncing off sparkingly clear waters, with just enough cool, dry breeze to keep the air from getting sticky.

President Nixon has been swimming, sailing, and walking on the beach. Only the incoming news reports that continually disclose new developments in the Watergate scandal tarnish the impression that he is enjoying an easygoing, relaxing weekend, and the Florida White House is saying almost nothing about those reports.

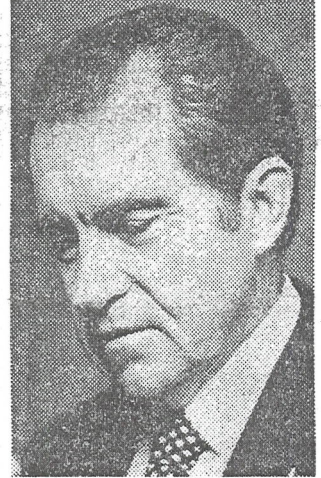
Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary and the highest-level White House official Mr. Nixon brought with him, has held only one full-fledged press briefing since the President flew to his compound here early Thursday afternoon.

He did announce at that one that Mr. Nixon was starting to repair his damaged White House staff by selecting Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. as an interim replacement for resigned chief of staff H.R. Haldeman.

Since that Friday noon briefing, however, there has been nothing but a string of no comments on Watergate developments.

The White House is not saying what the President thinks of E. Howard Hunt's grand jury testimony linking the CIA to the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office,

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JOHN MITCHELL

MARTHA MITCHELL

PRESIDENT NIXON

... Mitchell calls his wife's suggestion that Mr. Nixon resign "ridiculous."

## Martha: Nixon Should Quit

From News Dispatches

Martha Mitchell said Saturday night that President Nixon should "resign" because of the Watergate bug-ging scandal.

Mrs. Mitchell said that "if my husband knew anything about the Watergate break-in, Mr. Nixon also knew about it."

"I think he should say goodbye," the wife of the former Attorney General said in a telephone call to United Press International reporter Helen Thomas.

Asked why, she replied: "I think in order to give credibility to the Republican Party and credibility to the United States."

Mrs. Mitchell's last public

appearance was Thursday when she briefly talked with reporters in New York before giving a sworn deposition in the Democratic Party's \$6.4 million civil suit against the Watergate conspirators.

In the often rambling, 78-page deposition, Mrs. Mitchell told a battery of 12 attorneys she had no access to any documents connected with the Watergate affair but added that her woman's intuition told her "things weren't proper."

"If I had any personal knowledge of the Watergate, gentlemen, I would have done something about it long ago," she told the attorneys.

In her telephone conversation, Mrs. Mitchell said that "Mr. President should retire." She indicated that her reason for the suggestion was that Mr. Nixon was compromised by his aides, thus hindering his ability to govern effectively.

"I think he let the country down," she said.

Mitchell, in a statement released by the Committee for the Re-election of the President, called his wife's suggestion that Mr. Nixon resign "ridiculous." He accused UPI of taking advantage of a personal phone call.

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## NIXON, From A1

or of former White House aide Egil Krogh's accepting full responsibility for that burglary, or of the indictment of paid White House agent Daniel Segretti, or of the phony campaign letter Segretti is alleged to have had mailed during the Florida primary, or of Mr. Nixon's former counsel John Dean's safe-deposit box containing some of Hunt's files, or of the Gallup poll indicating half the American public believes Mr. Nixon participated in a coverup of Watergate.

The lack of information is similar to last weekend, when Mr. Nixon secluded himself at Camp David in the Maryland mountains, sending occasionally for a once-trusted aide, and surrounded only by reports—which proved to be accurate—that he was about to make a major Watergate announcement.

This time, while there is the feeling on the part of many sources that the rush of events may soon force Mr. Nixon to make another public move in the Watergate affair, there is no indication that he is actively preparing to do so. The White House will say only that he is giving active consideration to repairing and rearranging the White House staff.

In his April 30 address to the nation, Mr. Nixon said, "Since March, when I first learned that the Watergate affair might in fact be more serious than I had been led to believe, it has claimed far too much of my time and attention . . . I must now turn my full attention once again to the larger duties of this office . . ."

If the President is doing that, White House officials are, again, not talking about it. No one higher in rank than Ziegler is known to have come to talk with the President, though he has been in cable contact with Henry A. Kissinger in the Soviet Union and he is receiving regular national security briefings.

And when Mr. Nixon went to Grand Cay island Saturday afternoon, he took along no one but his friend C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo and Paul Keyes, former executive producer of the television gag show, "Laugh-In."

Even Mrs. Nixon and daughter Julie Eisenhower stayed behind at the Key Biscayne compound. Keyes, who flew down from Washington with Mr. Nixon aboard the presidential jet, is working on the entertainment for an upcoming White House party for returned Vietnam prisoners of war.

The official postings which go up on the Florida White House press office bulletin board twice a day talk mostly of bill signings, proclamations of "World Trade Week," minor appointments, and how the President has been "on the telephone" to Washington and presumably elsewhere.

Saturday night, after dinner and a swim, Mr. Nixon went for a two-hour moonlight cruise aboard the Sea Lion II, a 53-foot fishing boat owned

by New York industrialist Robert Abplanalp, who also owns all 125 acres of Grand Cay island, 110 miles from Key Biscayne.

Today, the President spent several hours fishing off Grand Cay, before returning to Key Biscayne.

The White House press office reported that this morning the President was at work in Abplanalp's seaside home but would not disclose what he was working on, except to say he had placed several calls to Key Biscayne, talking with Ziegler and others.

Mr. Nixon is not expected to return to Washington before Monday afternoon at the earliest. T M N Y