

Julie Says Family Told Nixon to Stay

Julie Nixon Eisenhower says her father considered resigning because of the Watergate scandal and "we said no, because resigning would be an admission of wrongdoing . . ."

Julie said the resignation issue came up during a discussion at the Camp David, Md., presidential retreat on May 4, the weekend after his April 30 speech on the Watergate affair.

"He was playing the devil's advocate one evening, saying . . . well, see, the thing is, he really loves the country and he'd do anything . . . that was best for the country. You know, he would say 'Should I resign? Would it be better for the country? Would the wounds heal faster? Would it (the country) be able to move faster to other things.'"

"We said no. We didn't think he should because resigning would be an admission of wrongdoing and we also felt that he was the man for the job and he had started things and needed to finish them."

"But he is really that kind of person. I think it was more than just a rhetorical question. I think he really thought 'Will this end everything?'"

The President's daughter was interviewed by Frances Lewine* of The Associated Press and Helen Thomas of United Press International at the San Clemente Inn Tuesday, two days before her 25th birthday. She is celebrating with her family at the Western White House today.

In the April 30 speech on the Watergate Mr. Nixon, Alexander Haig, John D. Ehrlichman, and the firing of his counsel, John W. Dean III.

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"My father just had complete faith in everyone around him," she said, explaining why it took the President so long to realize something was wrong. "I guess that's part of the whole tragedy of the thing."

"All I can say is that he was being assured that no one else (in the White House) was involved."

Julie said she believes that "events are going to vindicate" the President and she expressed concern over the "negative atmosphere" created by Watergate.

She defended her father, as she has in a series of public appearances in recent months, saying, "I think he was just really in the dark" about the June 17, 1972, burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters and the subsequent cover-up.

"I think one thing that's terribly important is that we try to wait until all the facts are out," she said. "The press had to print what Dean was saying. Right. They had to print things that were leaked because it's news."

"But I think that what's bad is that some people have been prejudged, you know, in the minds of others," she added.

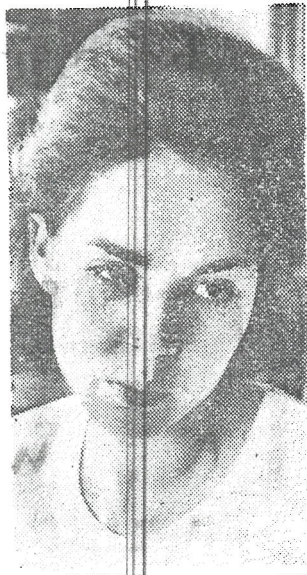
As for President Nixon's attitude toward Dean, the former counsel who implicated the President in the cover-up, she said, "Well I think the fact that Dean was asked to resign speaks for itself."

The President's present mood, she said, is "very good. He's moving ahead, and he's going to wait until the hearings are completed before he makes another statement (on Watergate). I think that's only fair, not to prejudge."

Julie said Americans "should be disturbed" about the burglary and bugging of the Democratic Party headquarters and the cover-up, but added: "What really disturbs me greatly is that I feel the press has made a hero out of Daniel Ellsberg. He stole documents (the Pentagon Papers). He broke the law. It was a question of national security. This could have had much greater consequences than bugging the Democratic headquarters. The bugging was ludicrous. I don't know what they thought they were going to find out. The whole stupidity of it is just unreal."

"What's really sad is that

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JULIE EISENHOWER . . . opposed resignation

Watergate in a way is the result of government being so big, so much power in the presidency. Government gets bigger and bigger. But this administration did try to really make a start . . . This administration has really, sincerely tried to make government less centralized, less powerful."

Julie said that she does not believe the President "ever approved" the "enemies list."

She said the idea of a political enemy list is "so ludicrous . . . because everyone knows who's opposed to the administration and who's a friend. Writing about this just makes it sound so underhanded. I just don't feel it's fair representation because I know my father and the kind of man he is. And he's not that way. He's too busy to be consumed with petty paranoid concerns."

Mr. Nixon's problems came because he didn't run his own campaign in 1972, Julie said.

"He didn't keep close tabs on the whole thing," she said.

"One of the real tragedies of Watergate is that the campaign organization is getting a black eye" and so many good, hard working people "are brought down too," she added.

Since her marriage to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's grandson, David, in December, 1968, Julie notes she has moved six times.

Julie indicated that she has found happiness in the \$125,000 home in the fashionable Maryland suburb of Washington which the Eisenhowers are renting from Mr. Nixon's friend, Charles (Bebe) Rebozo.

She disclosed for the first time that the President and Mrs. Nixon have slipped away from the White House "quite often" to enjoy Julie's cooking in the relaxed surroundings of her new home. "In fact that's one reason we're renting it," she said. "It's so private . . ."