

Julie Eisenhower on Watergate**Washington**

JULIE NIXON EISENHOWER is the only member of the White House family willingly talking to the press these days about Watergate.

While Pat Nixon has turned away Watergate questions with one-liners, or avoided press confrontations, Julie has talked with reporters and defended her father to the hilt.

Her mother, she said in a recent interview, has been "remarkable" throughout the whole Watergate affair. "The only reason she has not been actively seeking engagements is because she feels that there's too much focus on Watergate and she's not going to contribute to it. She's talked about it, but she thinks she's said her piece."

As for Tricia, "Well, she's just not making public appearances. She's happy in New York."

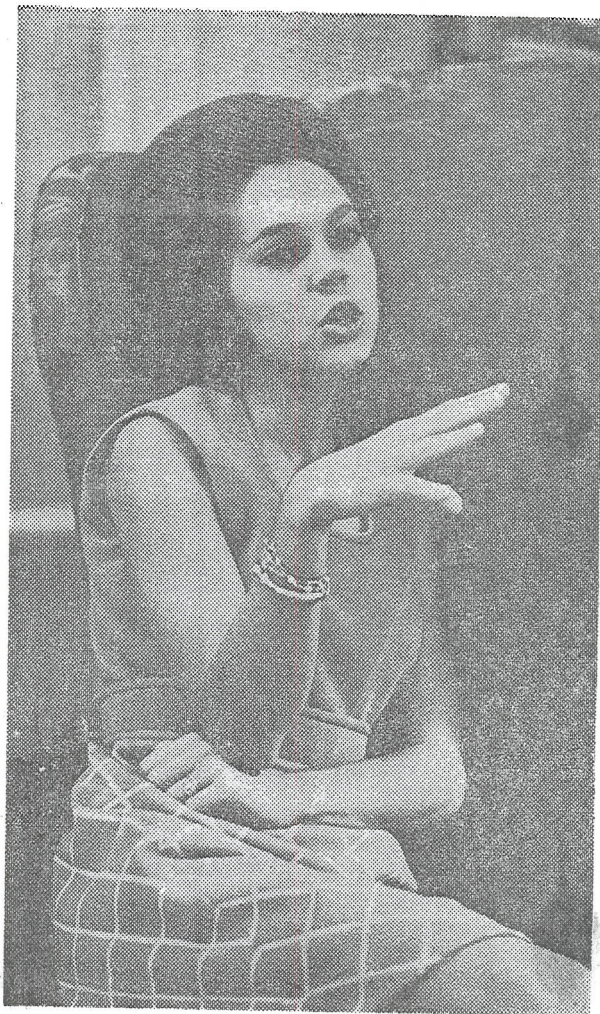
Why is Julie willing to defend her father and the administration in public? "It's very simple. I believe in my father and love him very much. I've felt from the beginning that the administration should carry on. I'd fold if I didn't think my father would go ahead with what he's done in four years. I felt I could help by making public appearances. I think the administration deserves credit for so many good things."

The tragedy of Watergate, as she sees it, is not that the entire hierarchy at the White House has been charged with bugging, spying, tax fixing and a variety of other illegal tactics, but that it "has all been blown out of proportion by the press . . . certain areas of the media . . . certain newspapers."

She refuses to name names, but blames the press for printing rumor and innuendo and "trying innocent people" without benefit of jury. She believes that if the 1960, 1964 and 1968 campaigns were investigated thoroughly, it would be discovered that the Democrats had engaged in similar activities.

To her, the media is unfair and carries a double standard. "They applauded the Ellsberg burglary, approved of publishing stolen documents, and now they call the tapping of the Democratic headquarters a capital crime. It was a stupid crime. I think a bunch of amateurs were at work."

Julie thinks the basic problem at the root of Watergate is "too many powerful people using power unwisely."



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She blames such things as political enemy lists on John Dean. "It's such a stupid idea. Everyone knows who's politically opposed to everyone else in this country. And my father is not the type to have a vendetta against anybody."

She does not know whether it is true that her father became extremely disturbed at the sight of just one demonstrator in front of the White House. She suspects it is just Dean's testimony again, but she herself expresses suspicion about the antiwar movement.

"Demonstrators were a disrupting element in the life of the United States. And anyone who thinks that demonstrators were completely harmless is foolish. But I think it's ludicrous to believe that my father became upset about one demonstrator outside. Maybe he commented on him."

Julie is confident that her father will regain popularity when the charges are all out and the testimony has been heard. "I think there will be a steady increase if he's able to accomplish the things he wants. His

attitude is good. He really loves his country and wants to do what's best."

She says Nixon will never resign. "He sees his job is to keep going. I think things will be all right if he's able to work with Congress. And I think they're going to want to work with my father when they believe he's doing the right thing. They don't want to see America incapacitated."

She says Watergate has not affected her personal or social life. But then she and David live a very quiet existence at their Bethesda home. "We're not interested in the party circuit. We'd rather play volleyball in the backyard or cook out."

"I'm a bundle of contradictions, like anyone else. And I'm an extrovert, yet there are many times that I would like to withdraw. I don't do it because I don't think it's good. I'm always telling myself not to let my own problems overwhelm me, and I try to focus on other things."

"I don't know how I'm going to feel in three years, but right now I think I'm going to be very happy to go back to private life."

Women's Wear Daily