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President Nixon at his news conference at White House

A Fatigued Nixon Asserts He Will Not Quit His Post

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 26—President Nixon, his face heavy with fatigue and displaying occasional hurt and anger, asserted in a nationally televised news conference tonight that he would not be deterred by demands for his impeachment and that he had no intention of resigning.

"The tougher it gets, the cooler I get," he said, [Question 12, Page 14.] A few moments later, he added, "I have what it takes."

Mr. Nixon lashed out angrily at reporting in the news media suggesting irregularities in his financial affairs, calling it "outrageous, distorted . . . frantic and hysterical." [Question 14.]

Denies He Is Angry

Asked why he was angry at the television networks, Mr. Nixon replied icily that he was not angry, saying, "One can only be angry with those he respects." Then he grinned.

The President vigorously defended as an honest man his businessman friend, C. G. Rebozo, who is under Congressional investigation for a \$100,000 gift he accepted from How-

ard R. Hughes, the millionaire recluse, and reportedly kept in a safety deposit vault for three years before returning it. [Question 10.] Mr. Nixon said he never knew of the gift, intended as a campaign contribution, because he had a strict rule that his associates not inform him of such contributions.

It was Mr. Nixon's first news conference since Oct. 3, and as he faced the questioning of reporters the President's public support was believed to be an all-time low.

In early October, before the dismissal of Mr. Cox, which evoked a storm of public protest, a Gallup poll showed that 30 per cent of those questioned approved of the way Mr. Nixon was handling his job, while 57 per cent disapproved. This was an eight point decline in approval since mid-August. In January he had a 68 per cent approval status.

He had not made a public appearance, except for posing for pictures, since the dramatic events of last weekend, when he proposed a "compromise"

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for releasing the controversial Watergate tape recordings to the courts, dismissed Mr. Cox after he refused to go along with the plan, and accepted the resignations of Attorney General Richardson and his deputy, Mr. Ruckelshaus.

On Tuesday, as criticism mounted against his moves, Mr. Nixon finally agreed to turn over the tapes to District Judge John J. Sirica as ordered by the Court of Appeals.

The President scheduled a television speech for Wednesday night to explain his position, but canceled it that morning, his spokesman said, because of his preoccupation with events in the Middle East. A news conference scheduled for last night was postponed until tonight for the same reason.

Although his move on Tuesday, in releasing the tapes, was designed to quiet the public uproar, opposition in Congress

continued and pressures mounted for the naming of another special prosecutor who would be independent of the White House.

During the week, Mr. Nixon spent three nights at the Presidential retreat at Camp David, Md., where he has frequently gone for solitude as his administration faced a crisis. He returned this morning shortly after 9 A.M. to deal with Middle East developments and prepare for the news conference

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