

## Washington

"People have come and gone," says Murray Chotiner, "and Rose Woods remains and goes on forever."

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Chotiner, an old associate of President Nixon's, was alluding to the shifting tides that have swept the Nixon staff in the past months. H. R. Haldeman, John Ehrlichman and a number of others are gone, but Rose Mary Woods is still there with "the boss" — as she calls Mr. Nixon — just as she has been for the last 22 years.

Yesterday, Miss Woods, who has served as Mr. Nixon's personal secretary for most of his political career, gave a rare public exhibit of the qualities of toughness and loyalty that over the years have made her unique among Mr. Nixon's aides.

Appearing in U.S. District Court here, she was asked to explain her role in typing the transcripts of the White House tapes sought by the Watergate prosecutors. Miss Woods responded in calm and measured terms, but her irritation was obvious when she was repeatedly asked to remember details of what she had typed.

"I don't think anyone here realizes what a job it was," she finally exclaimed.

But Miss Woods, a petite 55-year-old woman with strawberry blonde hair, is used to the hard work, the 18-hour days and the sleepless nights. What makes her special, Mr. Nixon wrote in his book "Six Crises," is "that rare and unique characteristic that marks the difference between a good secretary and a great one — she is always at her best when the pressures are greatest."

However, she is more than "a great secretary." In a sense, Rose Woods is Richard Nixon's link to the past, a person who has been with him through good times and bad. In the White House, where Mr. Nixon's principal advisers — Henry Kissinger, Ronald Ziegler and Alexander Haig Jr. — are relative-

ly recent acquaintances, she is the exception, a staff member who frequently dines privately with the Nixon family, who has known the Nixon daughters since they were children.

It is Rose Woods who is entrusted with Mr. Nixon's personal correspondence, who types the "reading copy" of the President's speeches. And it is Rose Woods who keeps in touch with old Nixon friends, who makes sure that they receive invitations to the White House and that their letters are answered.

Despite her relationship with Mr. Nixon — whom she first met in 1947, when he was a freshman congressman and she was a secretary for one of his committees — the years in the White House have not all been easy ones for Miss Woods. Her feud with H.R. Haldeman, the President's demanding chief of staff, was an open secret, and it was even rumored that Haldeman wanted to transfer Miss Woods from her office two doors from the President's to a more secluded one across the street in the executive office building.

She is reportedly happier now as a result of the White House reorganization last spring, which gave her a new title, "Executive Assistant," and more to do.

The third of five children, Miss Woods was born in Sebring, a small town in northeastern Ohio, on Dec. 26, 1917.

She has a sharp temper, which is particularly directed toward anyone she believes is unfair to Richard Nixon.

After yesterday's testimony, Miss Woods was relaxed and smiling as she answered reporters' questions. A few minutes later, as she was walking out of the court house, a reporter asked if she still believed Nixon is



AP Wirephoto

NIXON'S SECRETARY ROSE MARY WOODS  
She's been with him through good times and bad

"an honest man."

Miss Woods paused, her eyes flashing, and replied: "That is a rude, impertinent — the answer is yes."

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