

Nixon Tells Associates He Won't Quit

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Despite increased speculation that Vice President Gerald R. Ford may soon succeed to the top post, President Nixon continues to convince White House associates and others who see him that he is determined to serve out his full term.

In a speech Wednesday

night to appointed officials with no members of the press on hand, Mr. Nixon asserted that he was going to stay on the job.

"History will record that those of us who stay on this job and finish this job will have contributed a great deal to this country, and we are going to stay on this

job," the President was quoted as saying.

Although there was no available transcript, officials agreed on that quotation.

They described the President as in excellent form and said that he received a warm reception from the more than 300 persons who had gathered in the Washington Hilton Hotel to hear

White House staff chief Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

For several years, appointed officials have held informal meetings to exchange views and hear from one or more high officials. They had not expected Mr. Nixon to attend. Wives and husbands accompanied the officials to the Wednesday meeting.

On several occasions in recent weeks, the President has dropped in on meetings or parties unexpectedly, apparently determined to demonstrate that he has not been defeated by the Watergate charges.

Mr. Nixon has gone out to some of these events without notifying the press in advance. It has been a custom that before a President leaves the White House the wire services, at least, are notified so that they can provide coverage.

While the press has bitterly complained and has accused the press office of violating an old commitment, Mr. Nixon has paid little attention.

At the meeting, the President acknowledged that the times were "difficult" for all officials and thanked those present, and their wives, for dedication to the public business.

"I want to tell you how much I appreciate your keeping things going," one official quoted the President as saying. As Mr. Nixon concluded his remarks, he said: "I won't let you down."

Referring to changes that have occurred since he became President, Mr. Nixon said that while attending a reception an hour or two earlier at the Romanian Embassy he was "struck by the fact that the Soviet and Chinese ambassadors were here in the same room." He called that "a remarkable accomplishment."

The reference obviously was to Huang Chen, the special representative of the People's Republic of China, who is often referred to as an ambassador although he does not have that title.