

# Nixon Is Determined Not to Resign

By Jack Anderson

Now that there is once again a Republican replacement, press speculation is increasing that President Nixon might resign. The problem with such stories is that the reporters, who are writing them, haven't talked to the President.

They report he is, at the same time, both defiant and depressed. The Watergate imbroglio has put him under great strain. He is basically an introvert who tends to bottle emotions, to keep them inside. Our sources say he is beginning to show the strain. He doesn't seem to be able to shake off gloom.

They quote him as insisting, nevertheless, that he won't quit. He believes he is still better qualified than any available successor to handle the delicate diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, China and the Middle East nations.

He also feels, say our sources, that he would be left defenseless without the power of the presidency. As a private citizen, he fears he would be stripped of his best protection and would be ripped to shreds by his adversaries.

Our sources also point out, although the President himself hasn't mentioned it, that his legal expenses would be astronomical if he left the White House and had to pay them himself. He now has a dozen lawyers working on his defense at the taxpayers' expense.

The legal staff is headed by J. Fred Buzhardt, who was borrowed from the Pentagon and still draws a \$38,000 Pentagon salary.

However, the President is reported to be unhappy with his free legal help. He feels that the White House attorneys have been outmaneuvered in court by the Watergate prosecutors.

Finally, the President turned to an old friend, Illinois Judge John J. Sullivan, who had served with him in the Solomons during World War II. Sullivan agreed to come to the White House long enough to recruit some young lawyers and to shake up the legal office.

He established a research unit, for example, to prepare files on the dozen major Watergate problems that could develop during an impeachment proceeding. But the real problem, our sources say, is that the President has been masterminding his own defense rather than turning it over to the lawyers. He has also withheld crucial information from them until the last minute, leaving them to operate in the dark.

It won't be a very merry Christmas, our sources agree, at the White House.

*Nixon and Mills*—When President Nixon wanted someone to clear him of income tax irregularities, he personally chose an old friend, Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.).

This has caused some sour comment in the cloakrooms on

Capitol Hill. If Congress is going to do the President's financial wash, members have complained, the investigation should have gone through the Senate-House leadership and should never have been assigned by the President to the committee of his choice.

Some congressmen suspect that the President deliberately selected Mills as the committee chairman most likely to whitewash the charges. Consider these facts:

- Mills' own political skirts are soiled. A Mills associate accepted a \$15,000 cash contribution from Gulf Oil to help finance Mills' abortive 1972 presidential bid. The cash was transmitted in a sealed envelope from Gulf Vice President Claude Wild to Mills crony Carl Arnold who, as it happens, was a lobbyist for the American Petroleum Institute before opening his own lobbying office.

- Gulf pleaded guilty on Nov. 13 to the criminal offense of skimming the contribution from corporate funds. Yet Mills declined to return the \$15,000 until we began inquiring into the possibility of federal prosecution. It is a crime punishable by a \$10,000 fine and two years in jail to accept a corporate contribution knowingly. Parenthetically, Mills' committee has granted the oil industry tax breaks, which permitted Gulf to get away with a shockingly low 1.2 per cent tax rate in 1972;

- Mills' joint committee whitewashed the Internal Revenue Service by claiming it didn't hound those on the White House "enemies list." A painstaking American Civil Liberties Union study showed just the opposite, and a high IRS official has admitted secretly to the Senate Watergate committee that favors were granted at White House request.

- When a White House task force was about to bring more oil into the United States in 1969 over the objections of most oil companies, Mills fired off a telegram to the task force chief warning against "tinkering with oil imports." The task force was overruled by President Nixon's personal oil advisers.

- When Mills let it be known he had a speaking engagement on the West Coast, Tennessee, the oil-and-gas behemoth, flew him across the country in a sumptuous private jet. Yet he could have made just as good time in any one of 12 daily scheduled commercial flights.

Footnote: Mills' office acknowledged he waited a month to pay back the \$15,000 after learning it was an illegal contribution. When Gulf requested it, explained a spokesman, Mills paid it immediately with a personal check because his campaign committee had been dissolved. Lobbyist Arnold denied he knew the \$15,000 was taken from corporate funds. Gulf's Claude Wild didn't return our calls.

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