

# AIDE SAYS NIXON IGNORES DEMANDS FOR RESIGNATION

## Ziegler Declares His Chief Intends to Serve Out Term and Run the Government

### CITES WORK TO BE DONE

#### Ford Asserts White House Data Clear President of Watergate Wrongdoing

By JOHN HERBERS  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 — President Nixon is ignoring rising demands that he resign, is determined "not to be consumed for another year" by Watergate and fully intends to serve out the three years remaining in his term, Ronald L. Ziegler, his press secretary, said today.

Mr. Ziegler, in a rare appearance before White House reporters, said that Mr. Nixon intends to be so busily engaged in running the Government over the weeks ahead that he would be able to move off the defensive on Watergate and related matters.

"That is what he is determined to do," Mr. Ziegler said. "He is determined not to become consumed for another year by the Watergate matter. He fully intends to complete his three years in office, and is not entertaining at all the subject of resignation."

#### Remaining Programs

"He feels there are a number of programs and a number of initiatives that remain to be done in the next three years in both the foreign and domestic areas, and that is his attitude. That is how he feels, and that is what he is doing."

Vice President Ford, meanwhile, said the White House had information that would clear Mr. Nixon of wrongdoing in the Watergate affair or its subsequent cover-up. He also declared that the President had had nothing to do with the 18½-minute erasure on a key Watergate tape. "I know that the President was not in-

involved," he said. [Details on Page 18.]

Mr. Ziegler's spirited explanation of the President's position: an resignation and possible impeachment signaled yet another in a long series of efforts by Mr. Nixon and his assistants to put Watergate and related matters behind him and restore some of the public confidence he has lost over the last year.

This came as the 93d Congress headed into its second year, as some Democratic

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leaders were demanding a resignation and as the House Judiciary Committee inched toward a decision on impeachment.

There was nothing new in the President's strategy. Last Sept. 5, Mr. Nixon said that he could best restore the confidence of the country by not permitting his own confidence to be destroyed and by "doing something" as President, a theme he previously sounded from time to time.

The response today was in the context of a new sense of urgency about Mr. Nixon's future. Washington was awash with rumors that he might be considering resigning as his ranking in the public opinion polls continued to sink.

Asked about the polls, including a recent Gallup survey indicating that only 27 percent of the people approved the job Mr. Nixon was doing, Mr. Ziegler said that he was not surprised by the results. As the White House has continually done, he attributed the poll results largely to unsubstantiated charges against the President.

#### Heavy Impact Seen

"In terms of the substantial impact on the polls themselves," Mr. Ziegler said, "I think a lot of that has been the result of the constant, constant, constant charge, charge, charge against the President of the United States; unsupported charges, but, I know now, charges that are very difficult to catch up with before they become implanted in the public opinion. I think

the mistakes of Watergate, of course, had an impact, but I think this other element [unproved accusations] has had even a more substantial impact as it relates to the President."

Mr. Ziegler's strong assertions, coupled with the statement by Vice President Ford and remarks by the Senate minority floor leader, Hugh Scott, and others, were one more effort to open a counteroffensive that would make it possible for Mr. Nixon to continue in office.

Mr. Ziegler said that he would resume frequent press briefings, a task he virtually abandoned to his deputy, Gerald L. Warren, last summer on the advice of such Presidential assistants as Melvin R. Laird because of his strong previous denials of any White House coverup of the Watergate scandal.

#### Activities Listed

Mr. Ziegler opened the one-hour session with a long list of things he said the President was doing. These included his forthcoming delivery of the budget and the State of the Union Message, new initiatives on the energy crisis, new legislation on domestic issues, meetings with various officials in and out of the Government, beginning with breakfast this morning with House Speaker Carl Albert and a gathering this afternoon in the White House of 19 Republican Congressmen.

In response to questions, Mr. Ziegler sought to put down rumors that the White House was considering some plan for a resignation should the President's credibility sink any lower. The following dialogue occurred.

Q. Ron, are there meetings going on now involving

White House staff members and perhaps the President himself on how to deal with the impeachment issue. A. No, I would not say that there are formalized meetings going on as such.

Q. Are there discussions going on? A. No, not in any detailed way.

Q. In any sort of way, Ron? A. The subject is not one and the discussion is not one that we totally ignore, of course not.

Mr. Ziegler was asked how the President felt about the 18½-minute gap in the tape recording of a conversation between himself and the former White House chief of staff, H. R. Haldeman, shortly after the Watergate break-in.

"The President does not feel it was deliberate, whatever happened," Mr. Ziegler said. "We, as you know, were the ones who called this matter to the attention of the court. Now at that time and in the testimony before the court on the part of the White House counsel we attempted to find out how it took place. We could not resolve that, and we don't have that answer now, except we hold the view it was not deliberate. We don't know how it happened, and if we did we would say so."