

# Nixon and Ford Confer--

## Crisis Rumors Are Denied

### More Criticism From GOP

Washington

Criticism of President Nixon's conduct in the Watergate scandal continued yesterday, with new demands from members of his own party that he step down.

Senator Richard S. Schweiker (Rep.-Pa.) became the fourth GOP Senator to demand that Mr. Nixon resign from office for the good of the country.

Schweiker, at a news conference on Capitol Hill, released the text of a letter he sent to Mr. Nixon yesterday morning.

"I cannot remain silent in the face of the now obvious moral corrosion destroying and debasing the presidency," Schweiker's letter stated.

"I have not and will not prejudge questions relevant to impeachment," he continued, "but I believe public review of the released transcripts will inevitably destroy your capacity to lead our nation effectively for the remainder of your term.

"I am convinced you can best serve your country and the presidency by resigning now," the Pennsylvania Republican said.

Representative Joel T. Broyhill (Rep.-Va.) said the President should give resignation "serious consideration."

Senator Milton R. Young (Rep.-N.D.), like Schweiker a candidate for re-election this year, suggested that Mr. Nixon use the 25th Amendment — which allows temporary resignation when

a President can't fulfill his duties — to turn over the presidency temporarily to Vice President Gerald Ford, resuming his powers only if found innocent of wrongdoing.

And Representative Larry Hogan (Rep.-Md.) said resignation would "lift a weighty burden from the country."

Others, while highly criti-

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cal of the President and expressing dismay with the conduct revealed in the taped White House conversations released by Mr. Nixon 11 days ago, stopped short of demanding resignation.

Former Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller (Rep.-N.Y.) told a Kansas City GOP meeting late Thursday that while the transcripts left him shaken and with "a deep sense of sorrow and dismay," the impeachment proceeding is the place to settle the matter one way or another.

The view that the President's future should be settled by the impeachment process also was expressed by Senator George D. Aiken, (Rep.-Vt.), the Senate's senior Republican, and Washington Republican Governor Dan Evans.

"Impeachment, while a difficult and wrenching experience, at least has the advantage of leading to an ultimate answer. Resignation really doesn't answer anything," said Evans.

Strong statements against presidential resignation came from Senators William L. Scott (Rep.-Va.), Paul J. Fannin (Rep.-Ariz.), Norris Cotton (Rep.-N.H.) and several other conservative Republicans interviewed Thursday.

And California GOP Governor Ronald Reagan gave support to Mr. Nixon in an

interview.

He told reporters that the White House transcripts show that President Nixon didn't know of the Watergate break-in in advance and knew nothing of any coverup until at least March 21, 1973, the date Mr. Nixon says he first learned of the coverup from the White House counsel John Dean III. Reagan said the transcripts show Mr. Nixon "was not aware prior to March 21."

Support, though phrased in highly cautious terms, also came yesterday from Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton, a long-time Nixon associate and member of his cabinet.

Morton was quoted as saying the President acted too slowly in remedying the Watergate scandal. "I certainly wouldn't have handled Watergate the way it was handled," Morton said. "The problem was not taken up as quickly and dynamically as I would have liked. There was a little bit too much oscillation back and forth."

But he warned critics of the President not to be "trigger happy" and said, "I'm not going to jump off the ship until there's evidence that the ship is sinking."

On Capitol Hill yesterday, rumors continued to circulate that Republican and Democratic leaders had met to discuss whether to go to Mr. Nixon with a request for his resignation.



RICHARD SCHWEIKER  
Republican senator

Aides to Senate GOP leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, GOP Whip Robert P. Griffin of Michigan and Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (Dem.-Mont.) said yesterday they knew of no such meetings.

Schweiker's statement was the latest in a series of harsh reactions to the transcripts.

Even before the tapes were released, calls for Mr. Nixon's resignation had come from Senators Edward W. Brooke (Rep.-Mass.) and James L. Buckley (Cons.-Rep.-N.Y.). Senator Marlow W. Cook (Rep.-Ky.) called outright for resignation Thursday, asserting that the transcripts indicate "moral turpitude" and that "the President has irretrievably lost any claim to the confidence of the American people."

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