

What Bebe Says

About Nixon

New York

Charles (Bebe) Rebozo said in a magazine interview released yesterday that he and President Nixon have discussed the possibility of the president's resigning "many times," and that Mr. Nixon would be "better off" to quit.

But the president has always rejected his advice, Rebozo said in McCall's magazine.

He described the president's family as "phenomenal" under the pressure of

Watergate, but had harsh words for some former Nixon aides.

And he said that he personally would "rather have served six months in jail than to have gone through all I have in the past year."

"In recent conversations," said Rebozo, "I told him that he would be personally better off if he were out."

"It's like a fight manager saying, 'you better get outta there, they're beating your brains out.' I told him he

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has to start living a normal life again.

"I have discussed resignation with the president many times. Even before the 1972 election I told him, 'I would like to see you get out now.'"

"He always said, 'No, Bebe, we'll go for another term.' He said he had to see it through."

"But while I was saying he would be better off personally, I always told him that he couldn't let the people down by resigning. What was his response? Well, he gave me a look as though to say, 'I have heard that before, Bebe.'"

"And I say to myself, what is a punk kid like you, Bebe, without a college education, doing talking to the President of the United States that way?"

Rebozo said Mr. Nixon should not have made his income tax returns public, adding that presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler had favored the move.

"Public relations for the

White House hasn't been very good," Rebozo said. "Ron Ziegler is a nice young man, but he doesn't know public relations."

Rebozo added that H.R. Haldeman "did a good job" as Mr. Nixon's chief of staff, "but it would have been much better for the President if he'd had a guy at his right hand who knew politics. Many of these problems could have been avoided."

McCall's interviewer Nick Thimmesch asked whether Mr. Nixon feels betrayed by his former aides.

"Inwardly, the president has got to be disappointed in some of the men he had under him," said Rebozo. "But he's got enough cheeks to keep turning."

Concerning the President's family, Rebozo said, "they want him to stay in there. This ordeal has brought them even closer. Pat has held up very well . . . the girls (Tricia Nixon Cox and Julie Nixon Eisenhower) take it all in by reading the papers and watching television. The President asks them not to

do this' but they do it anyway."

About the unfavorable publicity he himself has received, Rebozo said: "They've all been here. The networks, the guys with the long lenses, reporters who think I've done everything bad under the sun."

"It is very painful when people make up stories about me . . . I have been harassed unmercifully by the IRS and by the Senate Watergate Committee. This is a penalty I must pay for my friendship with the President."

How is Mr. Nixon holding up two years after the Watergate break-in?

"He won't let himself feel bad," said Rebozo. "His temperature zooms up, but he doesn't think he is a mortal man. The president just holds it all in. I don't think that's good for anybody. I don't see how any human being can take it."

"But he has a powerful mind and acts as though he is saying, 'forgive them, they know not what they say.'"

United Press