SEChronicle

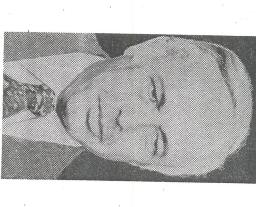
and David S. Broder By Lou Cannon Washington Post

Washington

signing and temporarily rejected it, informed White House sources said yester-President Nixon seriously considered the option of re-

over temporarily stitution, these sources said. possibility of letting Vice President Gerald Ford take closures, brought up the possibility of resignation Sunaverting impeachment Amendment to the U.S. Conday at a Camp David meetprovisions President also discussed the by his latest transcribed diswould be seriously damaged aware ing with his top aides. The They said that Mr. Nixon, ware that his hopes of 0 f the under 25th

situation as virtually unsalimpeachment and conviction that his only alternative to be counseling the President vageable. They seemed to Clair pictured Mr. Nixon's defense lawyer James D. St. Buchanan and White House dential assistant Patrick J. cording to one source, presi-During the discussion, ac-



JAMES D. ST. CLAIR Legal difficulties

also painted a grim picture White House chief of staff, is resignation from office. Alexander M. Haig, the of staff, H: R. Haldeman.

be damaging to us." mittee "material that will to the House Judiciary Comintended to make available ahead of time yesterday af-ternoon that the President to White House staff mem-He informed them

erto withheld transcripts of ahead" in reaction to the President's release of hith-Haig spoke of "rough weeks In talking to the staff,

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conversations between Mr. Nixon and his onetime chief PATRICK BUCHANAN Political assessment

said: "It's a brand new ball score 21-0 against us." game for the President." Another now only a matter of time meeting saying that "it's One staff member left the and we're in the quarter with the

said the President had inresignation. Another source possibility of an immediate seriously had weighed the One source said Mr. Nixon



'Rough weeks ahead' ALEXANDER HAIG

Nixon's speech writer RAY PRICE

only person who

down. nation speech" while emhad made no decision to step phasizing that Mr. Nixon that could be used in a resigwriters to prepare "material structed one of his speech.

ment, intended to allow for cases of disability. presidential succession in invoking the 25th Amendhis greatest consideration to that the President had given Still another source said

ing, Mr. Nixon appeared to At the Camp David meet-

gesting that he again take was nearly hopeless but suging that Mr. Nixon's position

this same source as agree-

Price was described by

foreclosed," the source said. least, that option has been

"For the present time, at

strong position on any of the and reportedly described the President's alhis case to the people. Haig options discussed. ternatives as "depressing" took no

impeachment assessment. the accuracy of their grim tion of outright resignation. Mr. Nixon told his aides he chanan brought up the op-The 25th Amendment option was raised by Mr. Nixchanan and St. Clair about this time and questioned Buis not prepared to resign at on after St. Clair and Bu-

heard something else." all of this. . . . He wishes he added: "He wouldn't believe is," the source said, and to accept how bad it really "He wasn't quite prepared

ing more likely every day. Senate conviction is becomadvising the President that gloomy political assessment tapes. Buchanan delivered a tive release of the Haldeman by the President's prospecthe legal difficulties posed St. Clair concentrated on

and presidential speech-

writer Ray Price all op-St. Clair, Haig, Buchanan sideration, said one source. option worthy of serious conthought the 25th Amendment

posed the idea.

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of sadness, not of anger. edly replied in a tone that the source described as one that," the President report-"I wish you hadn't said