

President 'Won't Resign'

---Insists on a Full Hearing

He Meets With His Cabinet

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President Nixon told his Cabinet yesterday he does not intend to resign and believes that the constitutional process should be allowed to run its course.

The beleaguered President, who has acknowledged that his cause in the House is hopeless, was quoted by one Cabinet officer as declaring that resignation "is not the course to follow. For me to resign would be something outside the Constitution."

Nevertheless, despite the President's determination, events were moving with such speed that presidential supporters admitted that resignation was a possibility.

Deputy Press Secretary Gerald L. Warren confirmed a Washington Post report that at Camp David last weekend the President did consider the possibility of resignation.

"Obviously, the President did not choose that course," Warren said.

Aides said that in seeking ways to defend himself, the President has for the time being rejected proposals that he speak to the nation on television, but he still is considering a suggestion that he address a joint session of Congress.

Meanwhile, aides are preparing material for a possible speech should the President decide to resign.

No one at the hurriedly-summoned Cabinet meeting suggested that the President resign and no Cabinet member offered his own resigna-

tion, Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon and others present said.

Simon, who spoke to a large number of reporters at the White House, said Mr. Nixon "sincerely believes" that he has committed no impeachable offense.

Simon said the President

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expressed his resolve not to allow the tragedy of Watergate to prevent his Administration from attending to the nation's business.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who stayed for a private meeting with the President, said when he departed that "the foreign policy of the United States is always and continues to be conducted on a bipartisan basis in the national interest and in the interest of world peace.

"When questions of peace or war are considered no foreign government should have doubts about the way in which foreign policy will be conducted."

Another Cabinet officer, who declined to allow his name to be used, said the President began the meeting by speaking for 15 minutes about the possibility of being impeached. He told the Cabinet he had considered resignation and that some people

had advised him it would be best to resign.

But Mr. Nixon said he was not in the position of an ordinary citizen in this matter and must be governed by the Constitution.

The Constitution provides a process for this kind of problem and this process should be used, Mr. Nixon commented. He said he released the tapes because he wants the evidence out, adding that he does not believe

he has committed an impeachable offense.

Vice President Gerald Ford then made some comments at the cabinet meeting, explaining his public statement Monday when he said he would stop talking about the impeachment issues.

However, the vice president told the Cabinet he would continue to talk about what he regarded as the President's achievements.

The President complimented the Cabinet and said it was a good one. "Do your extra best to run the government," the Cabinet officer quoted the President as saying. "The important thing is that this government be run right in these difficult times."

The President, according to Cabinet members present, said he had gone through the arguments for and against resignation from A to Z. Although he had received advice that he ought to spare himself and his family the ordeal and preserve financial advantages that would be saved by resignation, he concluded that these considerations were immaterial. The word "resignation" is not in the Constitution, Mr. Nixon noted.

"There was no uncertainty in his mind as to what his course is going to be," one member said. "There was no suggestion that he would resign. It is totally foreign to what he would do."

No one in the room challenged the President's arguments.

One member, asked how the President looked, said, "Obviously, he has been through a tortuous period of decision and analysis. He appeared to show it. His speech wasn't flowing. But after he got into topics dealing with the economy and international affairs, he

seemed to get back his old gait, to have gotten a kind of second wind."

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton, who has been a staunch Nixon supporter in the crisis, declined to speak to newsmen after the Cabinet meeting.

He confined himself to this statement issued through the Interior Department's press office:

"As to the matter of impeachment, I accept the President's desire to see the constitutional process go forward in an orderly manner. He has decided that his resignation would not serve the Republic, and has reaffirmed his commitment not to resign."

Kenneth Rush, counsellor to the President for economic affairs, said after the meeting he had never seen the President look better.

"He was very relaxed, in excellent humor, never better," Rush said.

Regarding the decision to carry on as President, Rush said Mr. Nixon "made the decision" and that "no dissent was expressed to that decision . . . everyone rallied behind (him)."

Rush said that the President did not go around the table asking for opinions but that there was an atmosphere of "everyone saying they were going to back the President . . . all going to do what we can to run our operation and cooperate fully."

Warren told reporters there was no change in the President's relations with the vice president now that Ford has decided he should no longer speak on impeachment defense.

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AP Wirephoto

President Nixon and his cabinet (from left) Treasury Secretary Simon, Vice President Ford, Attorney General Saxbe, Labor Secretary Brennan, Budget Director Ash, GOP National Committee Chairman Bush, presidential adviser Burch, HEW Secretary Weinberger, Interior Secretary Morton, Secretary of State Kissinger, the President and Defense Secretary Schlesinger