



This is the photo taken of the Nixon presidential family on Wednesday night — Edward and Tricia Cox; the President and Pat; Julie and David Eisenhower

UPI Telephoto

Last Official Pictures

The Family Together

Washington

The White House issued yesterday a set of the last official photographs taken of the First Family — one of them showing President Nixon hugging his daughter Julie Eisenhower as she is overcome with sobs on the eve of his resignation from the presidency.

The pictures were taken by Mr. Nixon's top photographer Ollie Atkins in the highly emotional waning moments and hours of the Nixon family's stay in the White House.

Atkins, wiping tears from his eyes, spoke with awe of the President's "stoic strength" in giving his family the comfort to lean on him during the greatest ordeal of his own life.

"Here he is holding his entire family together in this terrible dilemma," said Atkins, holding up a photograph to wire service reporters.

Atkins burst in on the First Family shortly before 7 p.m. EDT Wednesday evening just as they were about to have their dinners on trays on the informal setting of the solarium of the third floor of the White House.

The photographer said that the gathering, which included only one outsider, Mr. Nixon's personal secretary Rose Mary Woods, who is considered almost a member of the family, greeted him with tears and shrieks "as if I were a hero."

He told them "I've come over to make a picture," and they were delighted.

Mrs. Nixon told Atkins that it would be good to have a picture of "the whole gang now."

Mr. Nixon chimed in "Yes Ollie make it."

Then Tricia suggested a pose that they had all taken before to "have all our elbows linked together."

Atkins said that David Eisenhower and Edward Cox were in their shirt sleeves and very collected.

"It was a very emotional thing," said Atkins, "I admire this family. I've suffered with them. Tears came to my eyes."

He said that suddenly he took a closer look and he realized that "Mrs. Nixon had been crying. Tricia had been crying and Julie had been crying."

"I suddenly realized that this must have been the aftermath of Nixon's announcement to his family that he had decided to resign," said Atkins.

He said that as he was leaving Julie broke into sobs and her father gathered her close to him and wrapped his arms around her.

The other photographs show Mr. Nixon beginning his last day in the White House. He is pictured cut-

ting across the rose garden to a colonnade that leads to the oval office.

There are also two historic shots of Mr. Nixon meeting with Vice President Gerald Ford in the oval office when he is breaking the news that he is handing over the presidency to his hand-picked successor.

One other photograph in the series was specially requested by Mr. Nixon. Atkins said that he was summoned by the President to make a picture while Mr. Nixon strolled in the rose garden with his daughter Tricia. Tricia was married to Edward Cox in the rose garden on June 21, 1971, and walked down the aisle on the arm of her father.

One of the final photographs was taken in the oval office for history's sake as Mr. Nixon delivered his resignation statement on radio and television.

United Press