

WXP^{ost} AUG 11 1974

Friends Feel Nixon Women Didn't Know Watergate Facts

By Helen Thomas
United Press International

Friends of the Nixon women do not believe that Pat, Julie and Tricia learned the true extent of former President Nixon's involvement in Watergate until three days before he resigned.

They say Mrs. Nixon and her two daughters—Julie Eisenhower and Tricia Cox—would not have kept protesting Mr. Nixon's innocence had they known the facts he disclosed last Monday in releasing tapes of three conversations he held on June 23, 1972, six days after the Watergate break-in.

"My husband hasn't done anything wrong, and I believe him," the former First Lady used to say.

Julie, the most vocal public defender of her father said time and again "he has done nothing wrong."

And Tricia's most recent public statement was: "Innocence is innocence, and my father is innocent."

But even if the Nixon women did not know the truth until last week, they

remained loyally behind him after the release of his most damaging tapes. All urged him not to resign.

The former first family, shown fighting tears—sometimes unsuccessful—during the farewell ceremonies on national television, is said to be still stunned at the tragic events which forced Mr. Nixon's removal.

Julie and Tricia will lose their Secret Service protection at midnight Sunday. Julie, who lives in a high-rise apartment a few blocks from the White House with her husband David Eisenhower, a law school student, will no longer have her telephone connected to the White House switchboard.

Friends say that Julie, who sobbed uncontrollably when her father broke the news of his decision to resign to the family Wednesday evening, will write her mother's memoirs of her White House years.

The former President and Mrs. Nixon, accompanied by Tricia and her husband Edward Cox, were in seclusion at La Casa Pacifica at San

Clemente, Calif., where they flew after they left the White House Friday. Mr. Nixon ceased to be President during that flight.

The night before the Nixons left the White House, they took a sentimental stroll through its stately rooms and paused nostalgically before some of the pieces of art provided to help with White House restoration.

They even summoned their dogs to the family quarters after allowing King Timahoe a last romp on the White House lawn.

Tricia and Ed took a final stroll, hand-in-hand, through the Rose Garden, where they were married on June 12, 1971.

In the morning hours before Mr. Nixon's farewell address to his Cabinet and staff in the East Room, the former President and his family said goodbye to the household staff. Many of the maids who had served them for the past five years broke into tears.

"We've lost the best family ever," an usher said.