

NYTimes
**GRIFFIN SAYS NIXON
WAS INACCESSIBLE**

AUG 19 1974

SOUTHFIELD, Mich., Aug. 18 (UPI)—The Senate minority whip, Robert P. Griffin, said yesterday that several factors, including inaccessibility of the tapes and of President Nixon himself, were the reason why even his best friends did not tell the former President sooner that he ought to resign.

In a television interview, Senator Griffin, a close Nixon friend, said he knew the President was guilty of impeachable offenses Aug. 2, six days before his resignation. He also

said the former President's behavior had appeared "suspicious" from the beginning.

Mr. Griffin, appearing on WKBD-TV's "Lou Gordon Program," said that even Mr. Nixon's close friends had problems reaching conclusions because of the need for objectivity, inaccessibility of the tapes, and an apparent lack of opportunity to speak to Mr. Nixon.

Although he and other Republican leaders such as the Senate minority leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, met routinely with the President those meetings were "highly structured" and there was no chance to raise the Watergate matter, Senator Griffin said.