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Mrs. Nixon in the Aftermath

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Pat Nixon suffered a feeling of shame when her husband first resigned the presidency, but she now feels secure that he made a great contribution to the nation, a family friend said yesterday.

Rabbi Baruch Korff said in an interview that Mrs. Nixon, who will be 63 years old on March 16, has stayed up many sleepless nights with her husband and grown closer to him. She has "suffered a lot and aged" since last Aug. 9 when they moved out of the White House, he said.

"At first, in the beginning, there was more a feeling of shame on Pat's part," Korff said.

But, he added, she now

feels "secure in the belief that her husband's contribution to the nation is among the brightest to the presidency . . . (and) secure in the feeling that he has contributed to the destiny of the nation."

Korff, who has visited the Nixon home several times, said the former President once confided to him that

"what hurts me the most is that when I agonize, she (Mrs. Nixon) agonizes a thousandfold. When I pain, my children pain."

On a recent visit to their home in San Clemente, Calif., Korff recalled that Mrs. Nixon came into the living room with black soot smudges on her face and a kerchief on her head. She

had been fixing an electrical heater.

Nixon took out a handkerchief and tenderly began to wipe the smudges off his wife's face, Korff said.

"If you could have seen her," he said, "I don't think the Mona Lisa could have looked better . . . the look on her face. She's suffered a lot."