

KORFF IS RESIGNING FROM NIXON FUND

Rabbi Says Group Will Still Seek Aid for Legal Fees

By LINDA CHARLTON

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WASHINGTON, May 28—

Rabbi Baruch Korff announced today that he was resigning as head of the group that has raised \$190,000 toward the legal fees of former President Richard M. Nixon—but not

“from my friendship with him.” Rabbi Korff made his announcement in a jammed suite in the Mayflower Hotel, a few blocks from the office of the President Nixon Justice Fund. The group, he said, will continue to seek public contributions to pay the balance of \$155,155 still owed to the law firm of Miller, Cassidy, Larroca and Lewin.

The retired orthodox rabbi from Taunton, Mass., said he had begun his crusade because of “this indignation in me” at what he saw as “people tearing at the President and the Presidency itself” during the Senate Watergate hearings in the summer of 1973.

He is resigning from the fund,

he said, and from the allied United States Citizens’ Congress, a conservatively oriented group that grew out of his original National Citizens’ Committee for Fairness to the Presidency, for “personal reasons.” These, he said later, were reasons of family and health and his own identification with Mr. Nixon, which makes it impossible for him to address himself to other issues.

Focus on Relationship

“The one thing you focus on,” he told the reporters and cameramen, “is my relationship with President Nixon.”

Rabbi Korff, however, has talked extensively about his

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relationship with Mr. Nixon and published a book, “The Personal Nixon: Staying on the Summit,” largely transcripts of their conversations last summer.

He said that his resignation indicated no lessening of his commitment to the cause and noted that he was also retiring as chaplain to the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

In response to questions, he restated his conviction that “in time we will come to realize that President Nixon’s contributions surpassed all the contributions of his immediate predecessors, and, whatever wrong was done, it was no more and certainly less than what his

immediate predecessors [did].”

He said he was referring to allegations that the Kennedy Administration was implicated in a plot to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Looks to Vindication

The rabbi, who appeared tired, said that he believed history would “vindicate” Mr. Nixon, but not specifically his conduct “vis-a-vis Watergate,” unless evidence were turned up to show “that it was a plot, sort of, to embarrass him.”

He did not say specifically that he believed there was such evidence, but he did say: “I think you are in for a few surprises when you read his

memoirs. I have strong reasons for believing that many minds will be changed.”

Asked about Mr. Nixon’s plans, Rabbi Korff said it was “difficult to answer the question without betraying confidences, but let me respond by saying it is my feeling, and my feeling alone, that President Nixon will not participate in any manner” in the 1976 elections.

He said that he had informed Mr. Nixon of his decision to resign, effective with the election of a successor next month, and that the former President concurred. He said he planned to visit Mr. Nixon at San Clemente, Calif., the week of June 10.