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**Nixon's Final  
Days—He  
Wanted Love**

Washington

Richard Nixon viewed Watergate dispassionately as something "that was happening down the street" and in his last days as president sought not advice from his family but reassurance he was loved, David Eisenhower said Monday. 21 Jul.

He said Mr. Nixon, like Lyndon Johnson before him, was driven from office for "noncompetence" — inability to handle a crisis be it Vietnam or Watergate.

Eisenhower, married to Mr. Nixon's older daughter, Julie, also said the former President "was in awe of the presidency" and loved to share it with those close to him, somewhat like a child with a new toy.

"Mr. Nixon had a trait of being almost boyish about the presidency," Eisenhower said in an interview in the August issue of McCall's magazine. "He had a hard time believing where he was. He was so excited about it that he shared it with me, almost carelessly. He invited you to be a decision maker, to play the game." \*

But he said Mr. Nixon was "careful" about others with whom he shared the office — almost always restricting it to H. R. Haldeman, Henry Kissinger, John Ehrlichman and John Mitchell.

Eisenhower, the namesake grandson of another more popular President, said the Watergate

tapes show Mr. Nixon was "not very realistic" about the scandal. He picked a Feb. 28, 1973, tape as an example.

"It's kind of the old view, well, this is a public relations problem," he said. "The idea that Watergate involved issues that would bring down the administration was the farthest thing from his mind."

As the crisis deepened, he said, Mr. Nixon discussed Watergate with the family only in abstract, analytical terms.

"(He) spoke of it, well, in a kind of third-person way, as if it was something that was happening down the street," Eisenhower said. "He invited us to discuss it on that level, rather than getting down to the basics — which were that Watergate, from March, 1973 on, challenged Mr. Nixon's moral and personal qualifications for the presidency."

He said Julie "didn't have all the Watergate facts" and that her outspoken defense of her father "was human, not political." He described the final days in the Nixon White House as "an emotional period."

United Press

See McCall's for other quotations. Article, clipped, filed Aug.

\*"I was in Washington during the Cambodian incursion and read Joint Chief of Staff reports on the high morale of the troops."