

Curtis Still Defends Nixon

MINDEN, Neb., Aug. 9 (AP) —Sen. Carl T. Curtis, a defender of Richard M. Nixon to the end of his presidency, says "history will treat him much kinder than the things which have happened the last two years."

Curtis, a Republican from Nebraska, the state that gave Nixon his greatest plurality in 1972, was interviewed Friday on the anniversary of Nixon's resignation, which took effect Aug. 9, 1974.

"I believe Watergate was played out of proportion so far as removing an administration from power," Curtis said. "I believe a different yardstick was used in dealing with Mr. Nixon than was used on other presidents and officials."

Curtis said he was aware a year ago that many people were asking, "Why did I hang on so long?"

"If I didn't defend him, he would have gone undefended."

The senator said he was convinced 13 months ago, as the Watergate crisis reached a climax, that those opposed to Nixon had a "double agent" inside the White House. He said it was merely a guess, but one he continues to believe.