

Julie and David Eisenhower,
interviewed on "Face the Nation," CBS,
by George Herman, Helen Thomas and
Maria McLaughlin.

18 Jan 76

Transcribed from tape

Excerpts:

At -20 on cassette:

Q (Thomas): Did you bring back [from China] any special message from Mao Tse-tung to Mr. Nixon, and will he be travelling to China in any official capacity - next year, I imagine?

A (Mrs. Eisenhower): We did bring back a very warm message from Chairman Mao, and the message was that - well, his words were, "When Mr. Nixon comes to China I will be waiting [speaker's emphasis] for him," and he used this gesture. [Both arms raised, palms down, then down to table, with emphasis.] And I know that my father would like to return to the People's Republic of China. He doesn't have, you know, immediate plans, and of course if he goes it will be in an unofficial capacity. I think he would - it would be - he would love to do anything he could to promote peace in the Pacific or world relations, but he realizes that he's out of government now and he would be going as a private citizen.

At 20+ on cassette:

Q (Thomas): Do you feel it was proper for him to resign, because in May 1974 both of you had a press conference in which you said he would go the constitutional route down to the last senator, and you felt that this was proper. Do you think that he should have gone through the impeachment process all the way, or was he -- ?

A (Eisenhower): What sparked his resignation, above all else, were the estimates that the impeachment process would take six to eight months, even after the publication of the June 23rd tape, and at that point it just seemed like despite the good effect of going through the process and vindicating the constitutional process removing a President would have had, it wasn't worth the cost. Now the cost would have been enormous because --

Q (Thomas): Well, vindication would have been worth the cost.

A: Well, I don't think there is [sic] even a serious hope of vindication at that point. That was recognized, so the issue was whether he should stay on and submit to the process which is outlined in the Constitution for removal or to step aside, and the cost simply outweighed the potential benefit of clarifying the issues, narrowing the issues, and giving him a forum at least to defend himself personally.

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