

Julie Blasts Book, Defends Her Mother

New York

Responding to reports printed in "The Final Days," Julie Nixon Eisenhower denied that her mother was withdrawn, self-centered and drinking heavily during her last months in the White House.

Instead, Mrs. Eisenhower says, Pat Nixon gave the former President the strength to withstand the pressures of Watergate and the Vietnam war.

Mrs. Eisenhower replied yesterday to a characterization appearing in the book "The Final Days," by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein.

After reading the book, Mrs. Eisenhower wrote in Newsweek magazine's "My Turn" section, "There is one distortion I cannot live with: the portrait of my mother ... withdrawn, self-

centered and drinking heavily."

Even a cursory glimpse of newspaper files, she said, should have shown Woodward and Bernstein that Mrs. Nixon "was in August of 1974 a courageous and strong woman. The nebulous and weak figure of 'The Final Days, is not the same person.

"The flashes of bitterness and anger at what happened, the remorse for this path taken, that rejected, all these feelings exist," Mrs. Eisenhower wrote. "But the overwhelming emotion is a willingness to remain open to love and life.

She said that during the 18 months that the White House was preoccupied with the Watergate scandal, it was her mother who inspired former President Nixon to do his job.

Associated Press