

Nixon Aide Had to Tell The Family

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Richard Nixon says that when a decision to resign as President became inescapable and irreversible, he left it to his secretary, Rose Mary Woods, to tell his wife and daughters and sons-in-law.

Writing in a distant, off-handed tone — almost as though he were chronicling someone else's troubles — Nixon makes that disclosure in the second installment of his memoirs, to be published in book form May 15 but serialized in some newspapers.

In the section published yesterday, Nixon does not say why he did not break the news personally.

On Aug. 7, 1974, two days before he resigned, Nixon writes, "I called Rose and asked her to tell the family that a final check of my dwindling support in Congress had confirmed that I had to resign."

Nixon gossiped over his emotional prayer session in the Lincoln Bedroom with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, reported in "The Final Days" by Watergate reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein.

Nixon simply says he conferred with Kissinger on August 7, brought him into the bedroom, told him how every night "I would stop and kneel briefly and, following my Mother's Quaker custom, pray silently for a few moments before going to bed.

"I asked him to pray with me now, and we knelt," Nixon said.

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