

# Public Reactions <sup>F Post 10/24/73</sup>

## Jam Switchboards

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calls for impeachment mingled with cries of amazement on Sunday in an emotional outpouring of reaction from Americans stunned to learn of the latest government upheaval in the Watergate tapes controversy.

Switchboards at Western Union offices and local newspapers started blinking within minutes of President Nixon's announcement Saturday night that he had fired special prosecutor Archibald Cox, disbanded Cox's task force, accepted the resignation of Atty. Gen. Elliot L. Richardson and discharged Deputy Atty. Gen. William D. Ruckelshaus.

The AFL-CIO executive council scheduled a meeting on Monday to discuss the possi-

bility of calling for Nixon's impeachment.

Anne Burton, a clerk at Western Union in Seattle, said she got 50 or 75 calls from people wanting to send telegrams to their congressmen. "They were all for impeachment, definitely impeachment," she said.

Western Union headquarters in San Francisco doubled its 40-man staff to handle the flow of calls from eight western states. Ray Taylor, assistant operations manager, said company regulations prohibited him from disclosing the contents of the telegrams. He said the number of telegrams was "about 100 per cent over a routine Saturday evening" when the office handles about 2,000 telegrams between 4 p.m. and midnight.

The San Antonio, Tex., Express News said that the local Western Union office reported receiving 100 telegrams — all but one opposing Nixon's action.

Switchboard operators at the Los Angeles Times said they got "a whole raft" of calls. "They wanted to know who their congressman was so they could impeach the President," one operator said.

Some groups planned demonstrations. Larry Williamson, secretary of the parish council at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne, Ind., announced a Sunday night "vigil for justice" at the city federal building. "We hope to pray and demonstrate for a return to government by law," he said.

Several dozen pickets, some carrying signs reading, "Impeach Nixon," marched outside the White House Sunday afternoon.