

Dismay Continues Over Cox

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The initial surge of outraged reaction to President Nixon's firing of special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox began to turn yesterday to a state of more subdued but continuing and nearly unanimous public dismay across the Nation.

In Washington, a sunny Sunday with a World Series on television and the Redskins playing at home, the Cox case and the resignation of Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and his deputy, William D. Ruckelshaus, remained a prime topic of conversation.

Congressmen, U.S. Senators and state legislators reported an outpouring of calls and telegrams from their constituents, almost all opposed to the President's action in firing Cox and many urging Mr. Nixon's impeachment.

On Saturday night, after the President's decision was reported, angry calls flooded the switchboards of Washington's major news operations in tremendous volume.

At the White House, generally good-natured demonstrators with a collection of caustic signs mingled with visitors to the rose gardens—opened yesterday to the public—and exhorted passing motorists to honk their horns if they favored impeachment of the president. Hundreds did.

Across the nation, there was outspoken reaction at many levels to the President's firing of Cox and the resignations of Richardson and Ruckelshaus.

Most of it was opposed to the President. Even people describing themselves as supporters of Mr. Nixon in 1972 and other elections said they were appalled at the events of the weekend.

Much newspaper editorial reaction, too, was hostile to



JAMES SOUVAY
... against impeachment

the President. Several major newspapers raised the possibility of his impeachment. The Atlanta Constitution, which endorsed Mr. Nixon in 1972, declared editorially, "The House of Representatives should move promptly to begin impeachment proceedings against Richard M. Nixon."

The Chicago Tribune, which supported Mr. Nixon in both of his last two presidential campaigns, said the President "has perpetrated what may be the worst blunder in the history of the presidency."

There was also clerical reaction critical of the President. The Rev. Robert C. Clarke read a statement calling for Mr. Nixon's impeachment at both morning services of the Unitarian Church of Arlington. According to a press release, the minister described the President's actions in the Cox case as "a rotten plot against American institutions."

Dr. Louis H. Evans Jr., the pastor of the National Pres-

byterian Church, rewrote his sermon early this morning to say that Christians ought to be "sick at heart with what is happening" in the nation.

At Washington National Airport, Donna Bland of Silver Spring said she is embarrassed that she voted for Mr. Nixon last year. Mrs. Bland, a housewife, said she believes "we've reached a crisis point in terms of checks and balances. Nixon chose to fire the man he hired to get to the bottom of things." Others at the airport, interviewed at random, made similar comments.

On the other hand, 24-year-old James Souvay of Phoenix, Ariz., a musician, said he didn't vote for the President, doesn't like him, but doesn't think he should be impeached. "As it stands right now, we don't have much of a government," Souvay said. "It wouldn't be too smart to get rid of the President."

About 40 members of a United Methodist Church group went to the steps of the Capitol yesterday afternoon to deliver a petition calling for Mr. Nixon's impeachment to Reps. Donald M. Fraser (D-Minn.) and Jerome R. Waldie (D-Calif.).

The Washington Post's switchboard reported thousands of calls Saturday night protesting Cox's firing, but only three or four on the subject by midafternoon yesterday.

The Washington Star-News, which late Saturday was receiving calls at a rate of 60 an hour, said yesterday the clamor was subsiding. WMAL-TV, WTOP-TV and WRC-TV each said they had received only a half-dozen calls at most yesterday.

WETA, which has regularly carried film of the Watergate hearings, reported about 10 calls yesterday on Cox's firing—"More than usual for a major news event," a spokesman said,



DONNA BLAND
... "a crisis point"

"and mostly expressions of dismay."

The demonstration at the White House was an impromptu affair, made possible by a chance meeting on the Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalks between Jim Goodnow of Baltimore and Bruce Baechler of Washington.

Goodnow, 34, had 3,000 "Impeach Nixon" bumper stickers and 72 straw hats—but no permit to demonstrate. Baechler, 18, belongs to a group that has kept its permit current since beginning a "vigil for peace" in June, 1971. A merger was negotiated, Baechler invited Goodnow to share his permit, White House police acquiesced, and by 10:30 a.m. there were about two dozen people parading in front of the iron fence carrying Goodnow's bumper stickers.

The mood was amiable, by and large, though many of the homemade signs carried by the demonstrators were pointed. Many of those who came to tour the rose gardens stayed to demonstrate

Firing

and hold up "Honk for Impeachment" signs that produced a clamorous result.

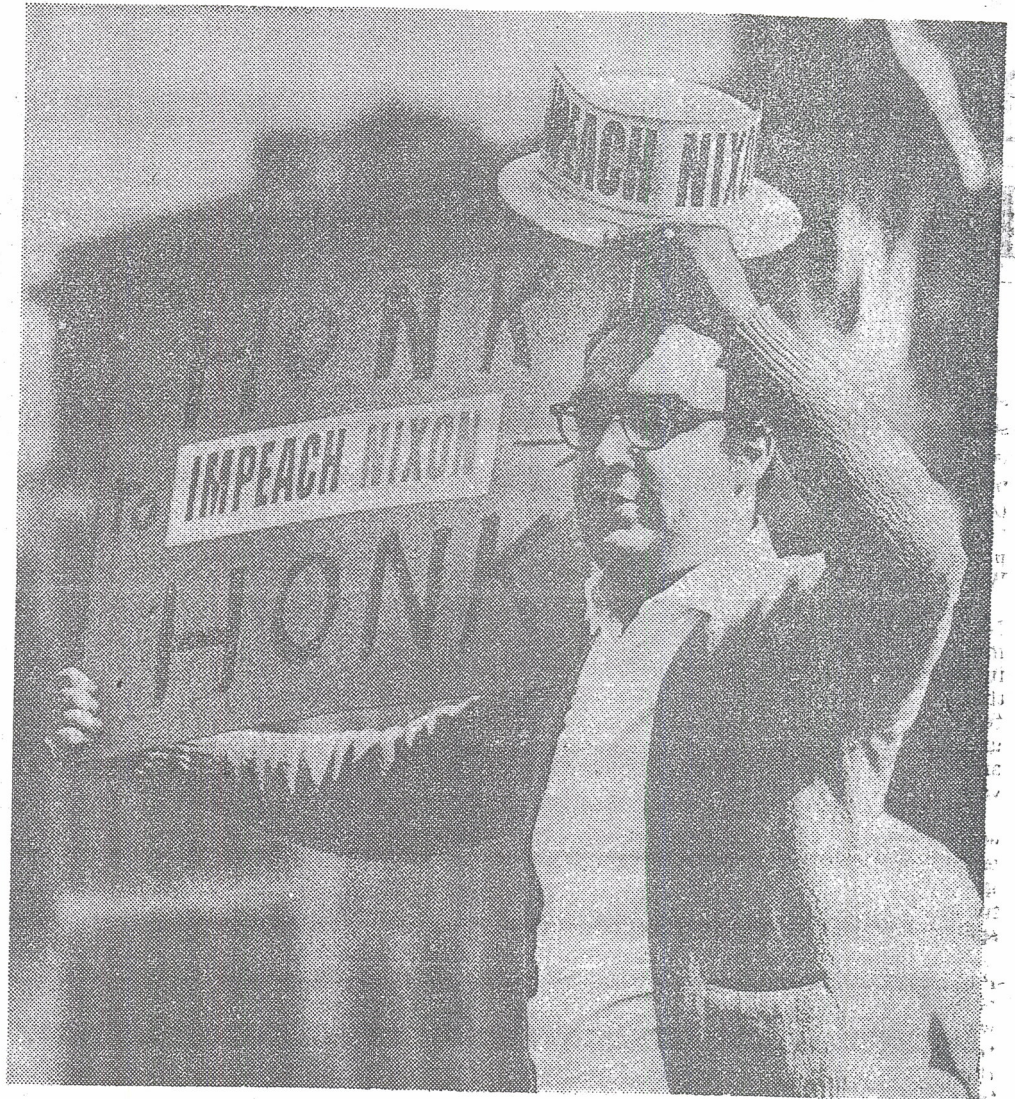
George Stavros, 28, of Arlington, who said he voted for Mr. Nixon in 1968, waved the sign for hours. "I even got a park policeman to honk," he said with pleasure.

George and Barbara Fries of Burtonsville and their children, each carrying a sign, drove in to demonstrate. "We're part of that mandate he likes to talk about," Mrs. Fries said. "Well, we have a new mandate for him."

Her husband, a computer programmer, remarked, "We are thankful that we live in a country where we can still do this."

Not all those who toured the rose gardens—several thousand people—paid any attention to the protest, of course.

The first person in line for the tour, airline stewardess Marge Goldcamp, said: "I don't have confidence in him (Mr. Nixon) any more, but I'm not sure I like the alternative. We don't even have a vice president."



By Craig Herndon—The Washington Post

George Stavros of Arlington holds a sign urging motorists to express sentiment.