

The Watergate Prosecutor

A Veteran of Probes

Cambridge, Mass.

Complex and sensitive investigations are nothing new to Archibald Cox, the Harvard Law School professor chosen yesterday as the special Watergate prosecutor.

Cox, 61, served as chairman of a commission in 1968 which investigated the student disorders at Columbia University in New York City. The Commission findings on the origin of the disorders filled a book.

In the fall of 1969, the governing body at Harvard delegated complete authority to Cox to call the shots for the administration during nearly two years of intermittent student disturbances.

"I have never seen him flustered in some of the most trying times," commented one colleague who observed Cox during the student violence here. "He weighs his words with the utmost care."

JOB

Cox, who served during the Kennedy-Johnson administrations as solicitor general in the Justice Department, also undertook a job as the unpaid special counsel to a Massachusetts legislative committee in late 1971.

The committee investigated misconduct charges against two State Superior Court judges which ultimately led to one of them being disbarred and the other censured.

State Republican Cornelius F. Kiernan, the man who chaired the committee, said yesterday that the legislators' confidence in Cox was justified "in every way."



UPI Telephoto

ARCHIBALD COX AT HARVARD
He still must be approved by the Senate

"I feel certain that his knowledge of the structure of the federal government and his deep and keen insight in legal matters will result in a careful, impartial

and proper presentation of all the facts.

Cox was named special prosecutor by Attorney General-designate Elliot Richardson, a former Massachusetts Attorney General.

STUDENT

State Attorney General Robert H. Quinn, who succeeded Richardson here and was a student under Cox at Harvard, said he "was very happy to endorse him both professionally and personally." Quinn termed Cox "one of the outstanding legal minds in the country."

Cox is a Plainfield, N.J., native who received both his bachelor's and law degrees at Harvard. He was associated with a Boston law firm for three years before entering government service.

During World War II, Cox filled various federal offices, then served as chairman of the Wage Stabilization Board under President Truman.

He joined the Harvard law faculty in 1945, but left in 1961 to become solicitor general under President Kennedy. He returned here in 1965.

His publications have included "Law and the National Labor Policy," "Civil Rights, the Constitution, and the Courts" and "The Warren Court: Constitutional Decision as an Instrument of Reform."

His wife, Phyllis, was asked if she were apprehensive about the possible pressure the new assignment might place on her husband. "I guess I'd better not comment on that," she said. "I just know he's a good man."

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