

## BICKERING MARKS HEARINGS ON COX

### Panel's Inquiry on Dismissal Becomes Partisan

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 — Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the dismissal of the former special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox, fell into partisan bickering today as two Republicans tried to portray Cox and his staff as indiscreet Democrats out to get the President.

Democrats on the committee tried to picture Mr. Cox as an impartial crusader and tried to blame the Justice Department for a press leak that the White House has charged came from Mr. Cox.

At one point, Senator Birch Bayh, Democrat of Indiana, said he thought Senator Senator Strom Thurmond, Republican of South Carolina, was "browbeating" Mr. Cox.

Senator Thurmond replied that Senator Bayh was "below a snake" if he was "impugning my motives."

Senator Bayh said he was not impugning the motives but "just stating them."

However, a private conversation held between former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and President Nixon over whether to appeal the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation antitrust case still dominated the hearings.

#### Kennedy Counterattacks

Mr. Cox told the committee yesterday that he had told Democratic Senators Philip A. Hart of Michigan and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and two of their aides, Burton Wides and Carey Parker, of the President's cursing Mr. Kleindienst and ordering him to drop plans for an appeal of the case.

However, Mr. Cox maintained that he had not been the source of the article published in The New York Times. The White House said he had been and that it showed his partisan bias.

Senator Kennedy counterattacked today, saying that "when the full story is laid out" the leak to The Times would probably "be traced to the Justice Department."

Senator Kennedy said that last Friday senior members of

Mr. Cox's former staff briefed Justice Department officials on the case, including Mr. Kleindienst's telephone call from the President.

At the meeting, he said, were Henry E. Petersen, the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division, and Mr. Petersen's deputy, John C. Keeney.

A spokesman for the Justice Department acknowledged that the meeting had taken place, that it had been brief and that it had included the topic of Mr. Kleindienst's telephone call.

However, the spokesman said neither Mr. Keeney nor Mr. Petersen had discussed the matter with anyone at the Justice Department or elsewhere.