

# Cox, Back in Professor's Role, Still Extols Virtues of Reason

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass., July 18 (AP)—Archibald Cox, the man hired and dismissed by President Nixon as special Watergate prosecutor, has eased back into his role as professor of law at Harvard.

Mr. Cox, a victim of what has come to be called the "Saturday Night Massacre" last October, spends his days now grading law papers and lecturing to his students, extolling the virtues of fairness as a reason.

He gets lingering stares now when he pedals across campus on his bicycle. He tiredly insists that he cannot discuss Watergate. And he wonders, now, how he could have been the center of a hurricane of national controversy over a major Government shakeup.

Mr. Cox seems to have made a studied attempt to run his life with the courtly, Yankee good humor and the slight eccentricities that make him such a distinctive campus figure.

## Shovels Out Stables

He still drives a pickup truck to the law school. He still shovels out the stables of the family farm where his wife raises Morgan horses. He still gets panned in student reviews of his teaching style. He still wears his narrow lapel, slope shouldersuits and buttondown shirts. And in a time of wide ties, fat bows or none at all, he still wears his skinny bow ties.

Above it all, there is the talk of fair play and civility that he dwelled on before he became special prosecutor and that he dwells on now. It is the theme of his public speeches.

For instance, in his Phi Beta Kappa oration at Harvard this spring, Mr. Cox compared the tactics of the Senate Watergate committee to those of the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy in the 1950's.

The committee or its staff

"leaks the result of incomplete investigation, gives out the accusatory inferences it draws from secret testimony and even releases proposed findings of guilt upon men under indictment," Mr. Cox said.

Mr. Cox is a liberal. But in his concern for his favorite virtues, he avoids some of the popular liberal causes.

In a speech at Brandeis University, he linked together, as part of the the same phenomenon, takeovers of buildings by students, bombings, draft record destruction, Daniel Ellsberg's disclosure of the Pentagon papers and Egil Krogh Jr.'s planning of the break-in of the office of Dr. Ellsberg's former psychiatrist.

## Criticism Over Teaching

Mr. Cox has his detractors in the classrooms at Harvard Law School, where he teaches labor, constitutional and administrative law.

"There's no question that he's in complete command of the subject, but he's not a performer in the classroom," said one recent graduate near the top of his class. "There's no sparkle at all."

Another student called Mr. Cox "soporific"—while a third said he was courteous but dull.

Mr. Cox, of course, has heard all that, and he seems content, for the time being, to continue as a professor—an occupation that has filled the time between forays into Federal Government law. The most notable of those, until last year, was a term during the Kennedy Administration as Solicitor General.

Faculty scuttlebutt has had it for years that Mr. Cox would have been appointed to the Supreme Court if President John F. Kennedy had lived. Now, that talk has started again with speculation that Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, might become President.