

Area Congressman Report

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Most Washington-area senators and congressmen, besieged by angry phone calls and telegrams from constituents protesting President Nixon's firing of Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox, expressed anguish yesterday about the incident but were divided over what Congress should do next.

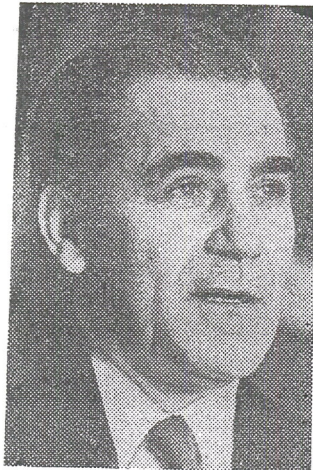
Sen. Charles Mc C. Mathias (R-Md.) said his constituents were "more agitated now than I've ever seen them."

When the son of Rep. Goodloe Byron (D-Md.) went outside to the doorstep of their Frederick, Md., home yesterday morning to pick up a newspaper, someone had already penciled under headlines: "Don't you think this is enough for impeachment?"

Rep. Parren Mitchell said he would introduce an impeachment resolution when Congress reconvenes on Tuesday.

"I think we do have the embryonic stages of a dictatorship, but if we take the appropriate action this will not prove true," Mitchell said.

Sen. William L. Scott (R-Va.), one of the few who reported little reaction from his constituents to the fir-



SEN. WILLIAM L. SCOTT
... defends Nixon

ing, defended Mr. Nixon's action.

"Reasonable people can disagree as to whether this was the right thing to do, but the President was 100 per cent within his rights ... I don't see any basis whatever for impeachment at this point," Scott said.

Reaction of many area congressmen and senators fell somewhere between the views of Mitchell and Scott.

"I would be very reluctant to vote for impeachment based on what I've heard so far, but my mind is open," Rep. William Wampler (R-Va.) of Bristol.

Wampler said he believed

President Nixon had achieved "very reasonable compromise" on release of the Watergate tapes before the showdown with Cox.

"It looked like he was trying to avoid a constitutional crisis. But it seems it may have brought on something worse," Wampler said.

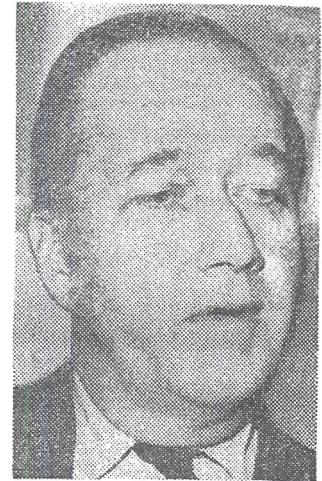
Rep. Joel T. Broyhill (R-Va.) of Arlington said he believed the President had "no other choice" but to fire Cox and said any impeachment proceedings would fail because they were being pushed by "only the most bitter, extreme anti-Nixon partisans ... who are not the most effective members of Congress."

Broyhill said he staunchly supported the President's position.

Saying he was "deeply troubled," Rep. Thomas N. Downing (D-Va.) of Newport News asserted, "It appears the time may be at hand for the Congress to take some degree of positive action in order to restore the faith of the American people in their government."

Downing said that impeachment "cannot be ruled out" but stressed that "immediate reaction must be tempered with sound judgment."

District of Columbia Del. Walter E. Fauntroy, a Democrat, said he senses a mood for impeachment but does



SEN. CHARLES MATHIAS
... constituents agitated

not plan to introduce an impeachment resolution because "I don't think my services will be needed. I think there will be a rush among senior Congressman to institute these proceedings now." Fauntroy may not vote but can introduce bills and resolutions.

Among Republicans in Virginia, there was an initial reaction to oppose impeachment but few of the GOP congressman ruled out the possibility if more damaging evidence was turned up in the future.

Accusing Cox of having "gotten carried away with his power," Rep. M. Caldwell

Reaction to Firing of Cox

Butler (R-Va.) said he does not see sufficient evidence now to indicate impeachment proceedings. He said, however, he would review any evidence put forth by impeachment advocates. At present, said Butler, he would not favor impeachment.

Taking basically the same tack, Rep. Marjorie Holt (R-Md.), representing Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties, said she wants to "investigate all of the alternatives—let's see what we are dealing with."

She said she was "disturbed" by the Cox resignation and had hoped, until it happened, that "we were moving in an very orderly way to know everything that happened."

Mrs. Holt said she has gotten telephone calls from about 10 persons since Saturday night, all of them expressing anxiety over the situation, but only one calling for impeachment.

Another Maryland congressman, Democrat Paul Sarbanes of Baltimore, issued a statement calling the President's action an "arrogant abuse of executive power" and saying; "This country does not function under one man's rule." One of Sarbanes's aides said the congressman received many calls strongly against the President's actions.



SEN. J. GLENN BEALL
... "partisan politics"

"I think there's a lot of partisan politics in this," Sen. J. Glenn Beall (R-Md.) said of impeachment talk. "I think a lot of people are playing politics, looking for some political game out of it."

"I don't deny the President the right to pick and choose the members of the executive branch. If he wanted to remove Cox that's his business."

"I, of course, was shocked when Elliot Richardson resigned. I hope that although he's lost to the Attorney General (position), I hope that he's not lost to the

(Nixon) administration," Beall said.

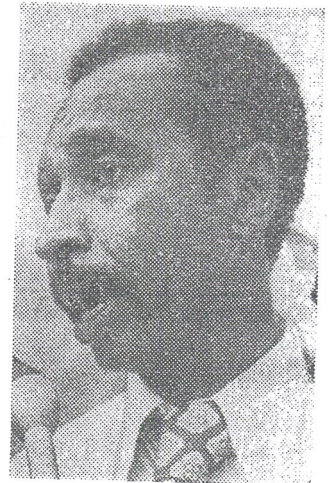
However, Mathias said, "The President's action falls far short of the requirements of the case. His proposals deal only with the Watergate break-in whereas the special prosecutor's responsibilities dealt with ITT, the whole fourth Amendment question and other aspects of the case."

"It's critical something be worked out . . . We can't abandon the pursuit of truth in the Watergate case . . . If there were anything more destructive of law and order in this country I can't think of it."

Rep. Robert Bauman (R-Md.) of the Eastern Shore was critical of Cox for taking his case before television audiences and said he strongly disagrees with those who advocate impeachment. "I am not going to be any part of a mob to lynch Richard Nixon," he said, but added that he foresees the possibility of the House "at least investigating, looking to the possibility of impeachment."

There were no immediate reactions from other Maryland and Virginia congressmen.

In the Virginia gubernatorial race, there was disagreement over whether the latest Watergate-related con-



REP. PARREN MITCHELL
... favors impeachment

trovery would hurt Republican Mills E. Godwin's chances of defeating Independent Lt. Gov. Henry E. Howell. GOP State Chairman Richard D. Obenshain said, "We've withstood a lot so far and I think we'll withstand this." Democratic State Chairman Joseph T. Fitzpatrick indicated the controversy might hurt Godwin but added: "It's in the hands of Congress and far be it from me to suggest what our congressman might do."

There was no immediate comment from Godwin or Howell.