

DEC 25 1970

Tricia to Wed? No! Well, Not Just Yet

By NAN ROBERTSON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 — The White House backed and filled and finally fell silent today on reports that Tricia Nixon, the President's older daughter, would marry Edward Finch Cox, a Harvard Law student who has been a beau of Miss Nixon's for varying periods over the last six years.

Mr. Cox, son of a Manhattan and Westhampton family, has been squiring 24-year-old Tricia around with increasing frequency these last few months. There have been persistent reports over the years that the pair would wed.

The White House aide said last night that "it [the announcement] certainly could happen over the holidays" and that Tricia was "radiantly happy last week," when Mr. Cox, also 24, came down for the weekend.

Report Denied

Constance Stuart, Mrs. Nixon's staff and press director, later said: "We absolutely deny it. There is no imminent engagement to announce," and added: "If and when it happens, it will be announced by President and Mrs. Nixon."

For the rest of the day, there was no answer to persistent ringing of Mrs. Stuart's phones by all callers—including other members of the White House staff—and a White House operator said: "I don't believe a soul is there."

The President's Press secre-

tary, Ronald L. Ziegler, pressed about the rumors at a morning briefing, referred all questions to Mrs. Stuart. As he was leaving the briefing, he barked back to further inquiries that Mrs. Stuart, "that lady in the East Wing," is "paid \$30,000 a year to answer questions like that."

This afternoon, Herbert Klein, President Nixon's Director of communications, commented: "I don't know, but if they're not, I think they're fairly close" to becoming engaged.

'Nader's Raider'

Mrs. Stuart did acknowledge that Miss Nixon and Mr. Cox could decide at some point to marry, but said that he has 18 months more at law school to complete.

The Nixons' younger daughter, Julie, married David Eisenhower, President Eisenhower's only grandson, two years ago this month when both were 20 years old. They then went on to finish college, she at Smith and he at Amherst in Massachusetts.

Mr. Cox is the son of Army Col. and Mrs. Howard Ellis Cox. He was graduated from Princeton in 1968, switched from the study of architecture to law, and was a member of "Nader's Raiders" in Washington, a group of consumer advocates.

He also worked as a summer intern at The New Republic magazine last year.

Mr. Cox is 6 feet, 1 inch tall, blond and handsome. Miss Nix-

on is about 5 feet, 3 inches tall, weighs a shade under 100 pounds and has luxuriant blond hair. She was graduated from Finch College in New York in 1968.

An article in the early editions of the Philadelphia Inquirer today said that the couple announced their plans to the Nixons several weeks ago at Camp David, the Presidential family retreat in Maryland.

Mr. Cox's father, reached by telephone in New York early today, said he was "sorry" but that he had "nothing" to talk about.

Agnew Daughter to Wed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (AP) — Vice President and Mrs. Spiro T. Agnew announced today the engagement of their daughter, Susan Scott Agnew, to First Sgt. Colin Neilson Macindoe of the Maryland State Police.

Mr. Macindoe, 36 years old, is the son of Mrs. Robert Macindoe of Easton, Md., and the late Mr. Macindoe. He is assigned to the Governor's security detail at Annapolis, Md.

Miss Agnew, 23, is an assistant coordinator of volunteer services at the Eastern Shore State Hospital in Cambridge, Md. No date has been set for the wedding.