

Who Is Eddie

Washington

EDWARD Finch Cox, who is rumored to be engaged to Tricia Nixon, is said by his friends to be "torn between two worlds."

He has worked as a researcher-writer for Ralph Nader's Raiders and as a writer on social problems for the liberal New Republic magazine.

Yet he was born into a family of wealth and social status. He is a descendant of the Schuylers and the Van Rensselaers. One of his ancestors was an American revolutionary, Robert Livingston, who helped write the Declaration of Independence.

Cox will graduate in 1972 from Harvard Law School. He has been educated at three Ivy League colleges,

Tricia, Ed May Decide To Elope

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Tricia Nixon and Edward Finch Cox are reported by friends to be on the verge of getting married much sooner than expected.

Both are distressed over publicity that has sprung up since they were reported to have picked June 14, Flag Day, for the ceremony.

Some friends say the couple has talked of "eloping."

Others insist they want a "small, private, closed ceremony" at the White House with only a few attendants and close family friends as guests. This would take place without any advance announcement and at a time much sooner than June.

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Harvard, Princeton and Yale.

His old friends from Nader's Raiders are surprised that he is going to marry Tricia Nixon, who once wrote a letter of praise to former Georgia Governor Lester Maddox.

But though Cox is a liberal, he isn't a picketer, his friends say. He wants reforms made inside the Establishment.

After getting his B.A. from Princeton, he spent a year at Yale. He worked with the Coalition for a New University, a committee trying to make the curriculum more flexible. "We hope to bring about changes in a peaceful way," he said.

Ralph Nader, the consumer's friend, and Cox met during a course on corporations which Nader gave at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton.

Cox was one of seven law students who worked on the FTC investigation, which produced a 185-page report entitled, "The Consumer and the Federal Trade Commission — A

Critique of the Consumer Protection Record of the FTC."

Cox is credited with doing most of the research and writing of the personnel section of the report, subtitled "The Core of the Problem — Personnel."

In April of 1969 Cox and the other young men who had worked with him on the FTC study appeared before Senator Abraham Ribicoff (Dem-Conn.) and his Executive Reorganization Subcommittee.

"I was terribly impressed by the high caliber of work of these young men," said Ribicoff.

There are those who compare Eddie Cox's persistence to Richard M. Nixon as a young Congressman investigating Alger Hiss.

There are others who say that Cox and Nixon are in sharp disagreement in their approach to government, with Cox taking a much more liberal view of the world than the President.

Cox is a good-looking, tall, 24-year-old. He is quiet and reserved when you



RALPH NADER
A former boss



SENATOR RIBICOFF
"Terribly impressed"

Cox?

first meet him. But when you know him, he is a "very warm, fun-loving person with a great sense of humor," his friends say.

He won the alumni award at Trinity School in his senior year for the most outstanding all-around student.

Cox studied for a year in the Yale Architectural School, where his sister, Mazie, is a student now.

At Princeton, he was in the Woodrow Wilson School of Diplomacy. While at Princeton, he was enrolled in the ROTC program.

He has a deferment from military service until he finishes law school.

Cox is a man of decided independence. Tricia, too, is a woman with a mind of her own. This has led to spirited arguments on subjects varying from Lester Maddox to architecture.

But friends say Eddie fits well into the family. His prospective father-in-law enjoys talking to him on his experiences in Mexico, where he studied Spanish this past summer, and in Appalachia, where he researched an article for the New Republic.

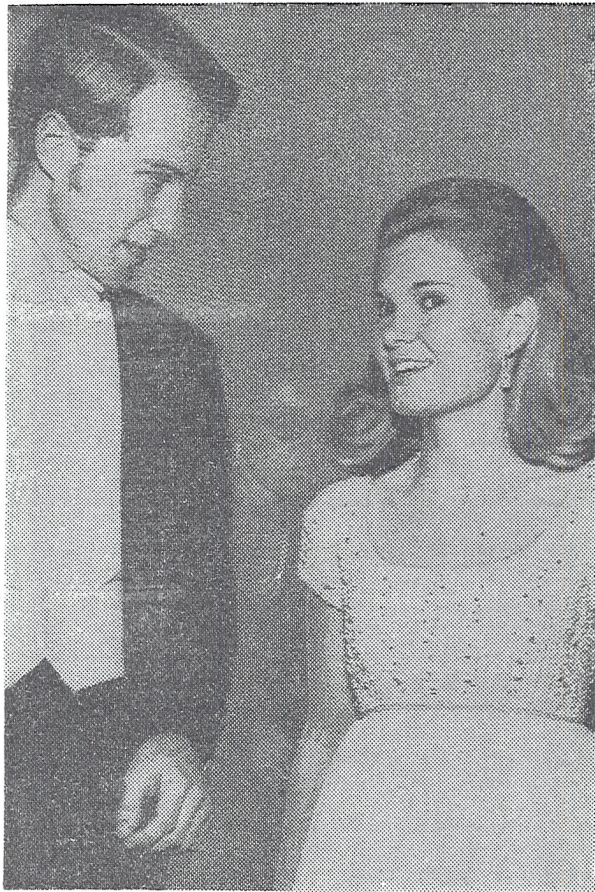
He and Tricia have one overwhelming interest in common — their privacy.

"Why do the newspapers want to write about people's private lives?" he asked a reporter last year. "The media's limited resources should be spent on really important things, for instance, the Kentucky miners."

Cox has refused to discuss with the press any political or ideological differences he may have with Tricia, but he has publicly admitted to their differing tastes in home furnishing.

Tricia likes French Provincial. Cox says he prefers contemporary designs.

Cox and Tricia have been



EDDIE COX AND TRICIA NIXON

"Why write about people's private lives?"

friends for seven years. They met when both were 17, the year the Nixons, moved from California to New York. Eddie Cox's father, a retired Army colonel, is a New York lawyer as Mr. Nixon was before his election to the Presidency.

The young people danced together the night of their meeting at a dance at the Chapin School where Tricia was a student.

The next year, 1964, Cox escorted Tricia to the International Debutante Ball in New York. By then she was a student at Finch College and he was an undergraduate at Princeton.

In 1968, Cox took time out from Nader's Raiders here to be with Tricia at the Republican National Convention in Miami when her father was nominated for the Presidency.

The next summer, when he worked here at the New Republic, they saw each other constantly.

"He never mentioned his connections at the White

House," recalls Gwen Somers, assistant to the editors of the New Republic.

"He is the most charming, pleasant and considerate young man I have ever met," Mrs. Somers said.

In the last few months, the friendship between Tricia and Cox has stepped up its momentum. Tricia visited his family in June at their Westhampton Beach home on Long Island.

Col. and Mrs. Howard Cox were invited to the White House in December as guests at the State dinner for Great Britain's Prime Minister Edward Heath, and afterward visited privately with the Nixons.

Tricia and Eddie Cox had Christmas dinner with their respective families. But after dinner, while her parents flew off to Camp David, Tricia went to Long Island to spend the weekend with the Coxes.

During the Christmas holidays, reporters noticed Tricia wearing a new diamond and sapphire ring.

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