

# Tricia Cox Makes Her '72 Campaigning Debut

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HUNTINGTON, L. I., April 25—Mrs. Tricia Nixon Cox swung through Westchester and Long Island today on the first of what she said would be numerous other campaign forays on behalf of her father and Republican candidates throughout the nation.

"I predict that when the record of this election year is written, it will show more women involved, playing a greater role than ever before in history," Mrs. Cox told 1,000 Republican women at a luncheon here.

But later she explained that much of her campaign would be together with her husband of less than a year, Edward Finch Cox, and added that what also pleased her was a report that her sister, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, regarded her as a "gourmet cook."

Until now, Mrs. Cox's campaigning has been spotty, speaking at an occasional Republican function, as has her sister. But the pace will pick up as the election approaches, she promised today.

"I expect that we'll be able to campaign together," she said, referring to her husband, who will be graduated next month from Harvard Law School.

"He has to pass his bar

examinations first, but I'll be campaigning meanwhile," she added. "Then he'll join me after the convention."

For her campaign swing today, which began in the 40-degree chill wind of Valhalla, N.Y., where she dedicated a building at the New York Medical College, Mrs. Cox wore what one of her aides described as "her Easter outfit." It consisted of

a two-piece all-what cotton brocade dress with full skirt drooping to the knees, a broad-brimmed white straw hat with a pink artificial flower, and bone-colored, sling-back shoes.

"You'll catch your death of cold, dear," said one man waiting behind police barricades. "Oh, no, I'm quite warm," Mrs. Cox replied, smiling.

She was surrounded by Secret Service agents and moved slowly down the line of people shaking their hands and occasionally signing autographs.

At the luncheon, a line of more than 300 women formed for autographs, and Mrs. Cox never had time to eat her lunch of pressed chicken, saffron rice and green beans. "But I love to campaign,"

she protested. "My father said to me when I told him I was coming down here the other day—he loves to read—he recommended the biography of Lady Randolph Churchill. He said how greatly this woman was able to influence that country even in Victorian times when women did not have the influence they do today. She could have gotten the world."

### Reports Back to Father

Mrs. Cox did not actually compare herself to Lady Churchill, but noted that her father, the President, did like to hear her experiences.

"My father's always anxious to see what people are saying," she said, "so Julie and I always report back to him."

Helen Smith, the First Lady's press secretary, said in a telephone interview from Washington today that both Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Eisenhower would be taking a much more active role in the 1972 campaign than they did in 1968.

"They can do more to augment their father's program," she said. "In the first place, they are older now, so they can do more speaking. The last time, David [Eisenhower] did more speaking than Tricia or Julie. That year they primarily introduced people. This year they will actually be out to represent their father or mother at various events."



After registering to vote, Tricia Nixon Cox greets residents in Yaphank, L.I.

The New York Times/Robert Walker

But for Mrs. Cox, at least, her life has two sides. One reporter told her today that Julie Eisenhower had said on a talk show that Tricia had become a "gourmet cook."

"I like to cook; it's fun," she said. "I've had an opportunity to do a lot of cooking recently. It's very kind of Julie to say that about me, but I have her recipe for spaghetti sauce."

### Registers in Yaphank

Mrs. Cox also became an official resident of Suffolk County, where her in-laws maintain a summer home and legal residence in Westhampton Beach.

"This is quite a bit different from when I last registered to vote in California," she confided. "I forgot my high school diploma then and had to take the literacy test."

As flashbulbs popped in a Yaphank voter registration headquarters, she signed her name with a flourish after a reporter asked her whether she would sign "Mrs." or "Ms." and she replied sidestepping the question, "I just sign it. Patricia Nixon Cox."