

# Tricia Cox: Seen and Heard

By Jeanette Symth

Tricia Nixon Cox, whose sister Julie has called her "the Howard Hughes of the White House," spoke out publicly for the first time yesterday on the Watergate crisis.

Mrs. Cox, who was hospitalized in March for urological tests, has made only two public appearances as a First Family member since the White House dinner for the returned prisoners of war May 24—the first was Tuesday's state dinner for Japanese prime minister Kakuei Tanaka; the second was yesterday's reception for some 40 members of the Irish International Teacher Program in the Blue Room.

Reporters asked Mrs. Cox whether she had known that most White House conversations had been taped. "I hadn't heard about it," she said. "I just assumed that for historical purposes that would occur. It wouldn't disturb me (to be taped) unless you have something to hide. I wouldn't mind being taped."

Of sister Julie Eisenhower's revelation that President Nixon had discussed resigning with the family, Mrs. Cox paraphrased the President's remarks this way: "But you know I really couldn't resign because I really haven't done anything wrong." At one point she gently pushed her fist into her hand.

"His mood is very good," Mrs. Cox continued, speaking of the President. "He has a real inner strength,

and he really believes in what he's doing. I think he will go down as a man of peace."

"I'm so proud of him," she concluded.

In the past five months, Julie Nixon Eisenhower has become the most visible and outspoken family member on the painful topic of Watergate. A White House spokesman said yesterday that Mrs. Eisenhower's busiest recent week was eight or nine appearances—a busy week's schedule, the spokesman said—in a three day period.

Mrs. Eisenhower and her husband, David, are spending the rest of this week at his parents' home outside of Philadelphia. Mrs. Cox is spending the next two weeks at the White House while her husband, Edward, is at Camp A. P. Hill on summer training as an Army reserve officer.

Later yesterday afternoon, First Lady Pat Nixon attended Georgetown ceremonies which designated the 115-year-old Georgetown Post Office building, as a historic customhouse.

A crowd filled 31st Street between M and N Streets to watch the ceremony, while police and Secret Service men kept a band of five well-dressed protestors at the M Street corner. The group carried placards protesting the proposed development of the Georgetown waterfront—"Stop the waterfront highrise."