

Angry, bipartisan Impeachment talk

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Congressmen from both the Senate and the House, both Republicans and Democrats, reacted loudly and angrily last night to President

Nixon's abrupt dismantling of the Watergate investigation and the firing of special prosecutor Archibald Cox. The outcry was for impeachment or at the very least censure.

A growing number of Republicans joined Democrats who vowed that there will be impeachment proceedings within a few days.

Republican Sen. Clifford P. Case of New Jersey said Nixon's firing of Cox will "bring to a head a situation which requires the most serious consideration of impeachment."

House Republican Conference Committee chairman John B. Anderson of Illinois said Nixon's action was "extremely unwise" and predicted that Democrats will launch a "serious impeachment effort."

Bay Area congressmen Don Edwards, Fortney H. (Pete) Stark, Jerome Waldie all joined Sen. John V. Tunney in calling for action against the President. Their comments reflect the shock and anger of the Democrats.

Said Stark: "The roof is caving in. It won't take many more acts like this before the Republic will rise up in arms and Congress will act."

• Waldie: "I intend now to seek impeachment. The President is acting most unstably."

• Edwards: "I'm in a state of shock, and I think the President should resign."

• Sen. John Tunney:

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"The President has committed a monstrous action and is now openly defying all three branches of government."

Republicans who joined Democrats in expressing outrage included Sen. Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, Ohio's Rep. Charles Mosher and Sen. Bob Packwood of Oregon.

Republican Sen. Charles Percy of Illinois said and replacement for ex-attorney General Elliot Richardson will have a hard time being confirmed by the Senate unless the new man guarantees a vigorous Watergate investigation and appoints another special prosecutor.

Leading Democratic senators were among those who

called for impeachment of the President or hinted at it:

• Sen. Edward Kennedy: "It's a reckless act of desperation by a President who is afraid of the Supreme Court, who has no respect for law and no regard for men of conscience . . . the burden is now on Congress to nullify this historic insult to the rule of law and to the nation's system of justice."

• Chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee, Sam Ervin: I am "very much saddened" by the President's action. He praised Cox and said, "It's a great tragedy he is no longer in charge of the investigation."

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, (D-Maine) endorsed house initiation of hearings on impeachment, saying "what the President has done

threatens to destroy our system of laws. It smacks of dictatorship."

Rep. B. F. Sisk (D-Calif.) fourth-ranking member of the House Rules Committee, said he would introduce a resolution to create a 15-member select committee to investigate impeachment of Nixon.

Sisk also said he questions the ability of Nixon to govern and said the second portion of the 25th Amendment to the Constitution should be considered. This provides for at least temporary removal from office of an incapacitated president.

Ervin said the firing of Cox could lead to expansion of the committee's investigation, which had seemed to be winding down. Cochairman Howard H. Baker Jr.,

echoed this thought.

One area Ervin said the committee may now explore rather than leave to the courts includes "methods employed to raise campaign contributions and how they were disbursed."

An Ohio Republican, Rep. Charles A. Mosher, predicted "there will be a tremendous ferment and revolutionary reaction in Congress."

"This certainly will trigger very serious action by Congress," Mosher said, "the obvious thing being impeachment or at the very least censure."

Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., co-chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, refused to comment on impeachment but said Nixon's action "may make it

doubly important that the Watergate committee have access to the tapes and continue its investigation."

"It may mean we'll have to look more thoroughly into the matter in the absence of a special prosecutor," said Baker.

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., said there was "no justification" for Nixon's action. "The office of the President of the United States does not carry with it a license to destroy justice in America. His deeds are dishonorable."

Rep. Ken Hechler, (D-W. Va.), said "impeachment proceedings must be initiated at the earliest possible moment."