

WXPost  
**Pressure for Impeachment Mounts**  
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By Jules Witcover  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Pressure for impeachment proceedings against President Nixon mounted rapidly last night in the wake of his firing of Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox and the resignations of Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus.

Within the White House, sources reported a reaction of "shock" among presiden-

tial aides to Mr. Nixon's action and an expectation of an impeachment move against him on Capitol Hill as an inevitable consequence.

In Congress, the ramifications were swift.

Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), charging that Mr. Nixon has "now violated his solemn obligation to the Senate" on Richardson's independence, said, "There is no question that whatever the chances for impeach-

ment were before, they have been materially increased."

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) called Mr. Nixon's action "the ultimate manifestation of contempt by the President for the other two branches of government, the kind of challenge that must find a resolution, and I can't think of any forum for that outside of impeachment."

Sen. J. Glenn Beall Jr. (R-Md.) said he thought "the likelihood is fairly good of someone starting" impeach-

ment proceedings against the President as a result of his actions. "The way you test the President is through Congress," he said.

Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.), vice chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee, told CBS News that he was shocked by the President's moves and in a somber voice he predicted strong debate in Congress over them.

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Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) called the firing of Cox "a reckless act of desperation by a President who is afraid of the Supreme

Court, who has no respect for law and regards for men of conscience.

"It is obvious," Kennedy said, "that Mr. Nixon is bent on maintaining the Watergate cover-up at any cost. The

burden is now on Congress and the courts to nullify this historic insult to the rule of law and to the nation's system of justice."

Rep. Donald M. Fraser (D-Minn.), national chairman of

Americans for Democratic Action, said flatly that "President Nixon has left the House of Representatives with no choice but to proceed with impeachment."

The President is making a mockery of the constitution and our system of government under law. We have no choice."

Fraser called on the House to hire Cox as its own special counsel "since the House has the constitutional responsibility to investigate, for possible impeachment, alleged crimes by high officials. The House could grant Mr. Cox all the authority he needs to carry out his investigation, authority Mr. Nixon has denied Mr. Cox.

"If Congress fails to respond effectively to the Presi-

dent's action," Fraser said, "the humiliation of the Congress in its relationship to the President will be complete."

Cox himself in his statement on the President's action against him replied that the next proper step was impeachment. "Whether ours shall continue to be a government of laws and not of men is now for Congress and ultimately the American people," he said.

Until last night, Congress had appeared to be extremely reluctant to even consider the impeachment step seriously. But there had been growing signals that if the President eventually bucked the judiciary branch on the issue of the White House tapes dealing with Watergate, it could pro-

vide the catalyst for action.

Rep. Jerome Waldie (D-Calif.) said last night he was flying back to Washington from California to meet with his staff today to prepare an impeachment resolution against the President, for submission to the House Tuesday. Waldie is a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Rep. B. F. Sisk (D-Calif.) said he is drafting a resolution to establish a select committee in the House to gather information on which to base a decision on whether to impeach Mr. Nixon. Sisk called the President's actions "the most irrational thing I ever heard of a President doing. Nixon has raised a real question about his competence to remain in office."



**SEN. EDMUND MUSKIE**  
... cites "contempt"



**SEN. STUART SYMINGTON**  
... "no question how"