

Public Reacts Strongly to Cox Ouster

By MAURICE CARROLL

Half a block from the White House yesterday, James Goodnow stationed himself on the sidewalk in front of the Treasury Building along with two large cartons full of imitation straw hats bearing "Impeach Nixon" labels.

Only a few of the 72 hats were left after half an hour in which he distributed them to anyone donating to his "Committee to Impeach the President," Mr. Goodnow said.

His was one of the more bizarre manifestations of an outpouring of public interest that followed the President's ouster of his Watergate prosecutor.

Politicians spoke out. So did some clergymen. There were protest rallies on some college campuses, including one by about 300 students at Columbia. The telephone switchboards buzzed busily at newspaper and television-station offices.

No White House Report

At the White House, the obvious focal point of attention for matters Presidential, the press office said there would be no immediate report on incoming messages of support for or disagreement with Mr. Nixon.

The Washington Western Union office, while declining to provide specific numbers, said that the volume of messages for the White House was "well above" the 300 received on a normal day.

Outside the White House, an orderly picket line of several dozen persons formed. Thousands of tourists moved through the grounds in sunny fall weather and one of them, a young woman, wore an "Impeach Nixon" sign on her back. Briefly, the White House police stopped the tour line, then decided to let the line, along with

the unidentified demonstrator, proceed.

Outside the special prosecutor's office, Ralph Nader, the consumer activist, posed under a sign that read: "No more plumbing — save the people's evidence from the burglar-in-chief." He told reporters that he would seek to build support for impeachment "because of numerous crimes committed by Mr. Nixon's entourage."

Calls to Stations

Two of the television networks, N.B.C. and C.B.S. had hurried out Saturday night specials on the dramatic events in Washington, and their stations in New York City both reported a heavy volume of telephone calls.

"Most of them were demanding we do something to rid the country of Richard Nixon," said a news assignment editor at WCBS-TV.

Richard C. Wald, president of N.B.C. News, whose Washington man, Douglas Kiker, was anchorman for a 90-minute special starting at 11:30 P.M. Saturday, said that he had checked the switchboard during the show. There were about 400 calls, he said. Roughly three-fourths of the callers asked, "What must we do to impeach the President?" Mr. Wald reported; the other one-fourth suggested that N.B.C. was being unfair to Mr. Nixon.

At The New York Times one of the telephone operators said they had been "swamped," with the majority of the callers on Saturday wanting to know how to reach Archibald Cox, the ousted Watergate prosecutor. Yesterday, most of the callers wanted to know who their Congressman was.

Ivan Sattem of Naples, Fla., sent The Times a telegram that read: "Since you supported Truman's firing of MacArthur for his unwillingness to follow

orders, I expect you will support Nixon's firing of Cox, for same reasons."

In Williamsburg, Va., about 150 students at the College of William and Mary held a rally in favor of impeachment. An old Nixon campaign poster was set afire.

At Columbia, where about 300 students gathered at the sundial for a one-hour rally, most signed petitions asking Congress to initiate impeachment proceedings. Peter Pouncey, the dean of Columbia College, spoke, calling President Nixon a paranoid egomaniac, a quintessentially hollow man.

Comments by Clergymen

Various church spokesmen commented on the President's action.

The Right Rev. Paul Moore Jr., the Episcopal Bishop of New York, said at an afternoon service in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine that he was "stunned by the arrogance of power displayed by the President." He said that Mr. Nixon had "provoked a fresh crisis by refusing to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court" and added that "Congress must take action to restore the balance of power."

The Rev. Dr. Ernest Campbell of the Riverside Church in New York said that "it is in the best interests of this nation that we work for the impeachment of the President," adding that "the very future of this Republic is at this moment up for grabs."

In Washington, Dr. Louis H. Evans Jr., pastor of the National Presbyterian Church, said that Christians should be "sick at heart with what is happening." He said that the nation was "without a Vice President, without an Attorney General, without a special prosecutor to help clear up this mess."