

Goldwater Supports the Firing of Cox

Washington

Senator Barry M. Goldwater (Rep-Ariz.) last night backed President Nixon's decision to fire special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox. Goldwater thus threw his weight against a rising public demand that Mr. Nixon resign or be impeached for his action.

During the day condemnation of Mr. Nixon came from leading Democratic officials, a liberal Republican organization, three major union leaders and a number of large newspapers which had supported Mr. Nixon for re-election.

But Goldwater — whose attitude is considered vital in the public opinion battle by both the White House and congressional Democrats — said, "I can't see anything that's happened that would cause either body (the House or Senate) to vote for impeachment."

AUTHORITY

Goldwater said he was not certain that Mr. Nixon had the authority to abolish the special prosecutor's office and turn the Watergate case back to the Justice Department, in the face of a congressional mandate for an independent probe.

But he said that Cox "was getting a little far afield" in his investigation "and the whole operation was beginning to have a political undertone."

The Arizona Republican,

who had previously criticized Mr. Nixon's reluctance to make available the evidence on the Watergate tapes, said the arrangement announced by the White House Saturday "is exactly what some of us have recommended right from the start."

Goldwater said he had been told by the White House yesterday that the summary of the tapes, to be authenticated by Senator John Stennis (Dem-Miss.), "would be ready in two weeks, so I think he (the President) has his ducks in a row. I don't think there's any chance" of impeachment.

STAND

Goldwater thus joined such other influential conservatives (Texas) and former Texas Governor John B. Connally in backing the President's stand.

But the dissension within the GOP that became apparent with the resignations of Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and deputy attorney general William D. Ruckelshaus also gained force Monday.

The Ripon Society, a spokesman for liberal Republicans called for "immediate impeachment proceedings," saying Mr. Nixon's actions "constitute criminal contempt and obstruction of justice."

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