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**Party Chiefs Split Over Legality  
Of Nixon's Watergate Case Acts**

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 22—The chairmen of the Democratic and Republican National Committees disagreed today over the legality of President Nixon's compromise in the White House tapes case and the removal of Archibald Cox as Watergate special prosecutor.

"We have witnessed a Chief Executive trample on our constitutional separation of powers and betray his spoken and written word to the Senate and the people of the nation," Robert S. Strauss, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said in a statement along with Gov. Wendell Ford of Kentucky, chairman of the Democratic Governors Caucus.

"President Nixon has abandoned the principle of law; he has abandoned the system of checks and balances; and he has abandoned his oath of office," the joint statement stated. "There is legitimate doubt as to whether he can continue to serve under these circumstances."

"The issue is not the right of

a Chief Executive to hire and fire," the statement continued. "The issue is the right of the Executive to place himself above the laws of the land."

**Bush Demurs**

But, according to George Bush, chairman of the Republican National Committee, in excerpts released here from a speech for a Republican dinner tonight in Milburn, N. J., the President has satisfied the court order and "had the authority to remove Mr. Cox."

While Mr. Bush said he was "not competent to interpret all the legalities," he said he was "convinced" that the compromise "will satisfy the people in this country when it comes to their desire to know what was on the tapes."

Mr. Bush compared President Nixon's dismissal of Mr. Cox with President Truman's dismissal of General Douglas MacArthur. "We cannot have a man in [the] Executive branch who does not answer to the head of the Executive branch," Mr. Bush said.