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**Press Sharply Criticizes  
Nixon on Ouster of Cox**

By GLENN FOWLER

President Nixon's dismissal of Archibald Cox has elicited the strongest press criticism since his election nearly five years ago.

The great majority of newspaper editorials in the last 48 hours deplore the President's action in discharging the special Watergate prosecutor for refusing to desist in a quest for White House tape recordings that might bear upon the bugging and burglary of the Democratic campaign headquarters in 1972 and the subsequent cover-up.

Scores of newspapers, including some of the country's most widely circulated journals, have called for impeachment of the President, his immediate resignation or other equally drastic solutions to the impasse between Mr. Nixon, on the one hand, and Congress and the courts, on the other.

#### Others Voice Criticism

Many other newspapers, while less harsh in their editorial judgment of Mr. Nixon, were nevertheless scornful of what they considered the President's high-handedness, and were openly skeptical of the Administration's contention that the compromise proposal for screening of the tape recordings represented an effort to avert a constitutional crisis.

Mr. Nixon received editorial support, however, from a minority of the American press. It was expressed in varying degrees of warmth, ranging from defense of the proposal on the tapes to approbation for the dismissal of Mr. Cox and the Deputy Attorney General, William D. Ruckelshaus, and the resignation of Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson.

In the foreign press, censure of the President's action was widespread but for the most part it was voiced in the expressed hope that the United States would not be weakened in the arena of world affairs.

#### Protests From Colleges

In opinion forums other than the press, Mr. Nixon fared badly. Protests from college faculty and student groups were dispatched to Washington from dozens of campuses. Local and state political leaders, including many Republicans, reacted with disapproval of his actions.

Newspaper editorial comment in the country's larger cities was mostly against Mr. Nixon.

In Chicago, The Tribune said the President's proposed compromise revelation of the Watergate tapes "may be the worst blunder in the history of the Presidency," but it urged both Mr. Nixon and his critics to

avoid "a hysterical, inflammatory and divisive political inquisition."

The Chicago Daily News deplored "the savagery" of the President's order to seal off the special prosecutor's office after he was ousted, and asked: "Did the President suspect some monstrous subversive conspiracy was hatching in Cox's office?"

The Chicago Sun-Times said editorially that "Mr. Nixon is in deep trouble personally, and he has placed the Government in trouble."

Both The Washington Post and The Washington Star-News upbraided the President. "Having lost two rounds in court," The Post said, "he [Mr. Nixon] attempted to seize immediate control of the prosecution of a series of criminal cases in which he is at least potentially a defendant."

#### 'Untenable Position'

"President Nixon has placed himself in an untenable position in relation to the courts," The Star-News said. "Unless he can find a way to backtrack quickly he is on a course which could lead to unimaginable difficulties."

Among other big-city newspapers, strong disapproval of Mr. Nixon came from The Kansas City Star, which called for impeachment proceedings in Congress, and The Boston Globe, which called upon the President to resign.

"The appearance of a rudderless Government is beginning to haunt Washington as affairs slip beyond the control of the executive power," The Star said editorially. "Congress, however reluctantly, must now consider the mechanics of replacing a President who may be fast approaching an incapacity to rule and cope with a world that so often demands instant reactions from a united people and their leader."

#### Agnew Example Cited

The Globe said: "There is another way to spare the nation from impeachment. It was done tidily and quickly and in full accordance with the processes of law only recently, when Spiro T. Agnew resigned as Vice President. With full respect for the high office he holds, and indeed because of that respect, we urge President Nixon to do the same."

The Atlanta Constitution was another large-circulation newspaper to call for impeachment: "No man is above the law. President Nixon, with the near incredible arrogance of his action in firing Archibald Cox,

has left the Congress and the American people little choice."

But more typical of the anti-Nixon reaction was that of The Baltimore Sun, which stopped short of a demand for impeachment: "By ordering Mr. Cox to obey him and not the orders of two courts that have now ruled in this case, and by firing him when he could not, President Nixon seemed to be saying flatly that he is above the law. If he does believe that, what is next?"

The Detroit Free Press said, in a similar vein, "It can be safely predicted that the President will now slide deeper into trouble and that he will have fewer resources at work in his behalf." To The Cleveland Plain Dealer the President's actions "leave Congress with little choice but to challenge [his] fitness to continue in office." And The Dallas Times-Herald said the President had "precipitated a crisis of confidence in his right to hold office."

#### 'Discredit His Leadership'

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch said the President "has now virtually closed the door to any chance of redeeming himself in the eyes of the public and regaining a position of leadership." In view of The Los Angeles Times, the President's "serious mistakes discredit his leadership and peril the balance of Federal power."

Other metropolitan newspapers either leaning toward impeachment or severely rebuking the President included The Nashville Tennessean, The Memphis Commercial Appeal, The Des Moines Tribune and The Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mr. Nixon's biggest editorial cheer came from The Manchester (N. H.) Union Leader, whose publisher, William Loeb, hailed the dismissal of Mr. Cox and the resignation of Mr. Richardson as "the best news to come along for quite a while."

#### Cox Ouster Defended

On the other side of the continent, the Portland Oregonian also defended the Cox dismissal. As for talk of impeachment, The Oregonian termed it "premature if not irrelevant," and added that "the prime national goal remains to get to the dregs of Watergate, not to punish Mr. Nixon."

Abroad, The Daily Express of London said Mr. Nixon's weekend actions represented "arrogance that threatens us all," and said the constitutional crisis in the United States came at a particularly unfortunate time in view of the serious Mideast situation.

In West Germany, The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said the fact that "the mightiest man of the greatest world power has to struggle with internal scandals in the face of a war in the Near East that threatens world peace is in itself a scandal."