

Gerald Ford Sees No Need for Cox

Harrisburg, Pa.

Vice President-designate Gerald R. Ford said yesterday that President Nixon's release of the Watergate tapes rules out a need to rehire Archibald Cox or anyone else as special Watergate prosecutor.

"I see no need for that whatsoever," Ford said at a news conference.

Ford said a special prosecutor is unnecessary because U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica agrees that the President's decision meets Sirica's order for the tapes.

"Under those circumstances I see no justification for Mr. Cox returning to his previous post," Ford said.

The vice president-designate said Assistant Attorney General Henry Petersen is fully qualified to

prosecute Watergate defendants.

Ford also said the President's release of the tapes should "under any and all circumstances wipe out any semblance of justification" for the President's impeachment.

Earlier, in a speech to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Ford said, "We have been able to avoid a constitutional crisis between the courts and the White House."

Ford had just departed from his prepared remarks to tell the legislators of the President's decision to turn over the tapes. His announcement drew applause from the representatives and senators.

The veteran congressman from Michigan predicted that, "after the smoke has cleared," President Nixon will be vindicated.

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