

# COX IS CHEERFUL IN FAREWELL TALK

Tells His Staff He Has Faith  
in Reaction of U.S. Public

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 —

Archibald Cox bade farewell to his staff today. Dismissed by the President Saturday in an action that stirred a nationwide outcry, the former special Watergate prosecutor had no words of bitterness or revenge. Instead, in a large anteroom just outside his old office, he spoke of "integrity, impartiality, fairness and care."

He spoke of the work that he and his staff had undertaken during their short five months together.

"I cling to the faith that its merit will appear to the American people and those who make decisions for them," he said.

### Autonomy Ended

He was dismissed as special prosecutor by Mr. Nixon, the White House said Saturday, for persisting in his legal fight to secure tape recordings of conversations held in the Presidential offices and other Presidential papers.

When Mr. Cox learned several hours after his farewell party, that the President had given up the fight over the tapes, he said, "I know that all citizens will be happy, as I am, that the President wisely chose to respect the rule of law."

His staff, mostly young men and women with a background of Eastern colleges and law schools, had their autonomy ended by the President and were incorporated into the Department of Justice.

Mr. Cox, a 61-year-old Harvard University law professor whose bow ties and gray crew-

cut have become familiar to millions of Americans, told the staff that he thought it "important that the work go on being done."

He said that he had never come in contact with a group with more professional skill and dedication.

"I hope that for all of you, as it certainly was for me, that this was a place . . ." He paused. ". . . I'm not sure that fun is the right word, but a place where there were real

satisfactions, where we had a sense of coherence, of everybody helping everybody else.

"And that was enormously important to me. Just as your friendship and support over what came to a climax over the weekend."

He continued: "I don't know quite how to thank you all for that. I don't think it's really personal, though I feel it in a personal way. But I hope you'll —well, I don't know. God bless you."

He said that he might be called to testify once or twice before Congress, but that he wanted no one to think his continued appearance in Washington was a matter of personality rather than of principle.

Once that is cleared up, he said, "I think I will go to the coast of Maine and spend the winter there, or at least the first part of it."

"I understand that my leave at Harvard was during my perio-

of Government employment," he said, "and perhaps I won't be eligible for long for unemployment compensation."

Reporters were not allowed at the meeting, but his former staff provided a transcript.

John Barker, the assistant public information officer, said that a few persons at the meeting cried. He said that most clapped hands after the speech, and a few women rushed up and kissed Mr. Cox.

Newsmen pressed to see him.