

Text of Cox's Farewell Remarks to Watergate Staff

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 23—Following is a transcript of the farewell remarks of Archibald Cox to the staff of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force, as prepared by the special force's public information office, before the White House announced that President Nixon would turn over the Watergate tapes to Judge John J. Sirica:

I have been spending some time thinking over something to say and never got beyond that point. Perhaps we've been saying all the things that needed to be said during the past few months. Perhaps, as in most important things, there is nothing to say.

(The following nine words are a paraphrase—I think we tried to conduct this investigation by) working with integrity, with impartiality, fairness and care, and I think that we also share the belief that a high level of personal and supporting ability was something which was important to bring into play, and that if we behaved ourselves in accordance with those aims, that indeed the values of our governmental institutions and system of justice would be demonstrated. I think and pray that that will be the result.

Plainly, there will be a

good deal of shakedown during the next few weeks. I don't want to tell anyone what the future should hold for any individual. I do think it important that the work go on being done, and that the integrity, not in a moral sense, but in a holding-together sense; the unity, viability, existence, whatever the right words are, of the organization will be preserved during that period, and that the work go forward during that period as we all tried to do it.

I cling to the faith that its merit will appear to the American people and those who make decisions for them. And that you will be able to continue to do what you came here to do.

I do think, at least, that chance should be preserved, that one should bet on it just as we all bet on that chance when we came to begin with. Because life isn't a sure thing, and it isn't a sure thing in these areas. Perhaps I can say three things. First of them personal in a way and the other two—very personal.

The one that is personal only in a way is that while I had an extraordinary staff as Solicitor General and have worked in that office and others where extraordinary groups were put together, I

think it really is true that I never came in contact with an organization of more professional skill or dedication or more that did really good professional work than any other.

I say that's in a way personal because that is one of the things that I value most in life. It is also not a personal judgment in any emotional sense, or personality sense, but I really think it is true. I hope that for all of you, as it certainly was for me, that this was a place—I'm not sure that fun is the right word, but a place where there were real satisfactions.

'One Thing More'

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 was growing over the last week, even though I couldn't say much about it, and what came to a climax over the weekend, at least as far as I'm concerned personally.

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

I will say just one thing more. A professor can always say one thing more since he gets hold of himself. As far as I am concerned, I am going to stay in the city. I think I may be called to testify once or twice. My aim is to stay as long as I can articulate, without it becoming personal, the things that I think that are involved, that I tried to articulate Saturday afternoon. Some of them can be added to.

I intend to get out as soon as I think there is any sense that what I begin to articulate somehow seems to be a matter of personality and not of principle. I don't know just when that will be. Then 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 period of Government employment. Those of you who are lawyers at least, and those of you who have worked for lawyers for a period, will understand me when I say I am told that sort of a fee simple determinable. The condition subsequent has now been satisfied, and perhaps I won't be eligible for long for unemployment compensation. God bless you all.