

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — Favoring reinstatement of the special Watergate prosecutor, the Senate Judiciary Committee will begin hearings Monday on President Nixon's dismissal of the man who held the post until last weekend.

Archibald Cox, the fired prosecutor, will be the first witness, said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

Kennedy and some other Democrats had asked that hearings start this afternoon and Cox was reported ready to testify, but the committee agreed after a two-hour meeting not to start the investigation until Monday.

The Committee blocked immediate action on a Kennedy resolution calling for reinstatement of Cox and restoration of special prosecutor's office which Nixon abolished Saturday.

But another member of the committee, Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.) told reporters, the committee "was unanimous on the need for a new special prosecutor."

The committee chairman, Sen. James O. Eastland, D-Miss., said former Attorney General Elliott L. Richardson and former Deputy

A tidal wave of mail for impeachment

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At the time President Nixon reversed his decision about furnishing the Watergate tapes to the courts, Congress was being barraged with an unprecedented number of letters, telegrams and telephone calls urging his impeachment.

Even the most conservative members heard from

Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus also are expected to testify at the hearings. Both resigned Saturday after refusing to fire Cox.

Asked if he believed the Senate would seek appointment of an independent prosecutor, Eastland replied: "I certainly do."

Sen. Roman Hruska, R-Neb., ranking Republican member, said "sentiment seems to be overwhelmingly for a special prosecutor" but he said there were constitutional questions about which branch of government should set up the office.

Kennedy has suggested

few supporters of the President.

"They're screaming for blood," said an aide to Rep. Dominick Daniels, D-N.J., who said the Jersey City area seemed to be unanimously against Nixon.

"It's as if an emotional clam has broken," said Rep. Clarence D. Long, D-Md., who said 200 of telephone

that Cox may have been fired because he was "too hot on the White House trail."

The Massachusetts Democrat said he also wanted to know whether President Nixon had decided "well before" last week to fire Cox and used the tapes controversy as an out to dismiss the special prosecutor.

If the investigation proceeds, Kennedy said he would recommend calling White House aides involved in the tapes negotiations. That could include White House Watergate counsel Fred Buzhardt and the President's Watergate lawyer, Charles Alan Wright.

calls favored impeachment.

Democrat Sam J. Ervin Jr. of North Carolina received more than 3500 telegrams and letters. An aide said he'd flipped through about half of them and found only two supporting Nixon.

Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., got 345 telegrams or letters favoring impeachment and 239 opposing the compromise.

At the same time, committee liberals were seeking broad sponsorship for legislation which would recreate the post of special prosecutor under the authority of Judge John J. Sirica.

Kennedy and Sen. Philip A. Hart, D-Mich., said such a bill would be introduced Monday when the Senate meets next.

Sens. La wren Chiles, D-Fla., and Adlai Stevenson, D-Ill., have already introduced bills similar to the Kennedy-Hart proposal. Stevenson also pressed a resolution to censure Acting Attorney General Robert Bork who actually fired Cox. Kennedy said "we all feel

it is even more essential now than ever" to have a special prosecutor handling the Watergate case.

Kennedy was among senators who said they expected Nixon's release of the tapes to defuse impeachment moves for the present. Several said they felt the President had been forced to change course because of adverse public reaction.

Sen. John V. Tunney D-Calif., called it "a victory for the American people."

Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., said he was "extremely happy" with Nixon's decision. Sen. Charles H. Percy, R-Ill., said it was a major step toward getting all the pertinent Watergate facts out in the open.

Sen. Edward W. Brooke, R-Mass., said he wished Nixon had agreed to release the tapes before Cox's ouster and the resignations of Richardson and Ruckelshaus.

"I cannot understand why the President put this country through such a torturous exercise," Brooke said.

McGovern, D-S.D., said that "the case to begin an impeachment investigation is very clear, apart from the tapes." Sen. Stevenson, said "nothing much has changed" by Nixon's action-giving up the tapes.