

NYTimes NOV 17 1973  
**Nixon Reportedly Asserts Cox  
 Reneged on Tapes Compromise**

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 Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16—President Nixon reportedly accused Archibald Cox today of reneging at the last minute on a compromise settlement of the Watergate tapes case.

But the President's account of events that led to his dismissal of the Watergate special prosecutor last month was challenged by Mr. Cox and apparently contradicted by published records of the unsuccessful effort to resolve the tapes controversy out of court.

According to Representative Charles W. Whalen Jr., an Ohio Republican who took notes—which he said included verbatim quotes—on Mr. Nixon's eighth and final Watergate

meeting with members of Congress today, the President gave the following explanation for ordering Mr. Cox's dismissal on Saturday, Oct. 20:

"Cox changed his mind on Friday night [Oct. 19] because of lack of confidence in Senator Stennis. We did not know until Saturday he had changed his mind."

Senator John C. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, had been chosen by the President to authenticate a White House summary of the contents of nine tape recordings being sought by the Watergate grand jury and the Senate Watergate committee. The planned compromise col-

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lapsed when Mr. Cox balked and was dismissed. Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson resigned and Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus was dismissed after both men refused to carry out the order to dismiss Mr. Cox.

The White House, asked to

verify the quote attributed to the President, did not respond immediately.

Mr. Cox, reached today by telephone in Brooksville, Me., said that he had "never questioned Senator Stennis's integrity at all." His objections to the compromise plan, Mr. Cox said, were given in a memorandum to Mr. Richardson and a letter to Charles Alan Wright, the special White House counsel on the tapes case.

Both documents, along with a letter from Mr. Wright to Mr. Cox, were made public by the former special prosecutor a few hours before his dismissal on Oct. 20, the date that Mr. Nixon reportedly said the White House first learned of Mr. Cox's objections.

The memo to Mr. Richardson was dated Oct. 18. Mr. Cox said today that it was delivered to the Attorney General's office at mid-afternoon that Thursday. The memo cited 11 "highly important" points about the compromise plan.

Among the points were objections that "the narrow scope of the proposal is a grave defect"—it would have not have assured Mr. Cox's access to other White House tapes and documents—and that it might be difficult for "any one man operating in secrecy, consulting only with the White House" to generate public confidence in the authenticity of the tapes summary.

Delivered on the 19th

Mr. Cox's letter to Mr. Wright was dated Friday, Oct. 19, and was delivered, Mr. Cox said today, to the White House by mid-morning. It objected that the tapes themselves apparently would be withheld "Even if it meant dismissal of prosecutions against former Government officials who have betrayed the public trust."

The Oct. 19 letter to Mr. Wright also complained that Mr. Cox's efforts to obtain other White House tapes or documents "bearing upon criminal wrongdoing" would be left to the discretion of the White House.

That same Friday, Mr. Wright replied in a letter to Mr. Cox that "the differences between us remain so great that no purpose would be served by further discussion" of the compromise offer.

The President, who traveled this afternoon to Florida to prepare for a four-day round of public appearances in the South, was hailed by some of the 28 House Republicans who met with him this morning over fish, eggs and bacon.

"If he can make the same



Representative Charles W. Whalen Jr., Ohio Republican, quoted President Nixon on Archibald Cox.

explanation to John Q. Public, man to man, he'll make a lot of sales in my opinion," said Representative Charles Thone of Nebraska.

"I had the feeling he leveled with us," agreed Representative William B. Widnall of New Jersey.

Moreover, the President told five Democratic businessmen from Jacksonville, Fla., who delivered a suitcase containing signatures of 31,000 supporters later this morning, that they had "made my day."

But Representative Whalen, who has been a critic of Mr. Nixon's conduct in the Watergate case, said that he was "just not convinced" of the President's willingness to make a full disclosure of White House evidence.

Mr. Whalen said that, in response to a question by Representative David C. Treen of Louisiana, Mr. Nixon had said he would not turn over White House tape recordings he did not consider relevant to the Government investigation, or those involving national security considerations or tape involving any "third party" who might be harmed by the disclosure.

Mr. Treen said, however, that he "felt a lot better after the meeting"—not so much because of the President's comments as because of his "demeanor, his forthrightness and freedom from irritation or frustration," Mr. Treen added:

"I don't think a man guilty of any wrongdoing could have handled himself as well as the President did."

According to the notes made by Mr. Whalen, the President also made the following points in the 80-minute meeting:

¶C. G. Rebozo, the Key Biscayne, Fla., banker who is Mr. Nixon's close friend, was accompanied by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

last April when he returned a \$100,000 cash political gift to an associate of Howard R. Hughes, the reclusive billionaire.

¶Mr. Nixon complained that there had been "massive violations" of election financing laws in the 1972 Presidential campaigns of Senator George McGovern of South Dakota and other Democrats, but said that the violations "won't be looked into" by his critics.

¶The President apologized for any damage the Watergate-related scandals may have done to the unsuccessful New Jersey gubernatorial candidacy of Representative Charles W. Sandman Jr., and he told Mr. Sandman, "You can't feel sorry for a loser unless you've lost yourself. I've lost twice."

¶Explaining the source of income that enabled him to make large down payments on estates in San Clemente, Calif., and Key Biscayne, Mr. Nixon noted that when he left the Vice-Presidency in 1961 he had to drive a three-year-old Oldsmobile. But he said that by the time he became President in 1969, he had earned between \$150,000 and \$250,000 annually working "my butt off" as a lawyer, had realized \$250,000 in royalties from his book, "Six Crises," had sold a New York condominium apartment for \$350,000, real estate in Florida for \$150,000 and stock worth some \$300,000.

The President's reference to F.B.I. involvement in the controversial Hughes contribution was the first disclosure that the Government had supervised the return of the money, which Mr. Rebozo and the White House have said was kept locked in a safe deposit box for nearly three years.

Mr. Nixon was said to have told his breakfast guests that the return was carried out in the presence of a Government agent who first fingerprinted the bills and recorded their serial numbers—presumably to verify that they were the same bills originally given to Mr. Rebozo.

"So maybe he's not dumb," Mr. Nixon said of Mr. Rebozo, according to Representative Whalen.

A spokesman for the F.B.I. asked to confirm the agency's involvement but not told that the President had mentioned it at he closed-door meeting, said that he could not comment on the matter yet.

"Maybe by next Tuesday or Wednesday we'll have all the facts," the spokesman said.

The three commercial networks, the Columbia Broadcasting System, the American Broadcasting Company and the National Broadcasting Company, will provide like radio and television coverage of President Nixon's questions-and-answer session with the delegates to The Associated Press Managing Editors convention in Orlando, Fla., tomorrow from 7 P.M. through the conclusion of the broadcast.