

Cox skirts stand on impeachment

Examiner News Services

SOUTH BROOKSVILLE (Maine)—Former Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox says he won't take a stand on the question of the impeachment of President Nixon.

In a news conference at his home yesterday, Cox said, "I can't properly answer that without seeming to give an answer based on something that I may know as a result of the work I did."

Cox said there also should never have been any doubt in Nixon's mind that he would object to a proposal to let a U.S. Senator handle the White House tapes.

Cox was dismissed last month after he publicly expressed opposition to a White House plan to let Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.) listen to the tapes and relay pertinent Watergate information to the courts and Watergate Committee.

Answering a charge by Sen. Robert Taft (R-Ohio) he was wrong in going to the media when he became dissatisfied with the investiga-

tion, Cox said Taft overlooked "that one of my powers was to make reports to the people."

"I don't believe there would be a more appropriate time than the one when I felt the President wanted me to take a course other than one I felt was the legal recourse to get the information I sought."

Cox said the tapes, although the most dramatic aspect of the Watergate affair, were not the most important. He said there are other documents in the White House just as important as the tapes.

Cox called on Congress to quickly pass legislation that would create a special prosecutor with three provisions:

- Provide for presidential appointment with advise and consent of the Senate.
- Sharply limit any power of removal.
- Provide that if the President and the Senate can't agree before Congress recesses, the court should have the power to fill the vacancy.