

Cox Flooded With Mail; Tone

By Richard Weintraub
Special to The Washington Post
CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — A sixth grade girl from Longmeadow, Mass., apologized for what "Mr. Nixon" had done.

A woman from Cleveland, Ohio pleaded for a continuation for a "fight for principle."

A husband and wife in Allentown, Pa., offered their full support.

A former high federal official, now a member of a Chicago law firm said simply: "You make me proud to be a lawyer."

These and a host of other ideas, pleas, expressions of indignation and support are drawn from thousands of letters and telegrams re-

ceived by former Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox during and since the weekend of October 19, 20 and 21 when he was fired by presidential order.

In all, there have been some 5,000 letters and telegrams sent by people in almost every state and from several foreign countries.

"During the summer there was mixed mail but this was real hero stuff. I think it meant a lot to him but he doesn't show emotion very much. It was reassuring to him to see the amount of it," said Rosanne Kumins, secretary to Harvard law professor James Vorenberg, who worked on Cox's staff in Washington this summer.

"We really had to chuckle

a bit at some of the telegrams," she said. "They would say 'Hang in there Archie' or 'right on Archie'. Not exactly the way we were used to talking to him."

Cox is spending the fall months at his vacation home in Maine, although he makes an occasional trip to Cambridge to take care of business at the Harvard Law School, where he returns to teach in January. He has drafted a letter of response to all those who wrote to him and it is currently being processed at his own expense.

The letter reads in part, "The outpouring of letters and telegrams during that period showed that the

American people believe in the rule of law and will insist that their elected officials observe it. That so many of you took the trouble to let me know we share the same ideals gives me both encouragement and a friendly feeling."

While the theme of the rule of law is constant in the letters and telegrams, what Cox did not mention is the vast outpouring of praise and respect for him and his staff.

From school children or lawyers, from a neighborhood bar or a California beach, in letters typed by secretaries on fancy stationery or in the scrawled handwriting of an elderly man on a lined piece of tablet pa-

Is 'Right on Archie'

per, the message was the same.

Perhaps a bit more eloquent than some, but typical in theme, are the sentiments written out by a husband and wife in Portland, Me. They wrote:

"We all suffer when our top government officials commit crimes. Many have been jailed in various states for misfeasance or malfeasance in office. There are many of our friends (too many) who feel that justice is for the poor, the rich and powerful are above the law. When you see white collar crime go free often times, whereas the poor are jailed for a variety of sometimes minor offenses, no wonder we have a crisis of confi-

dence. Would we be free if we had taken bribes? If we had embezzled thousands of dollars? We realize it's difficult to deal out justice evenhandedly all the time. But, we should always try harder.

"We just want to thank you for your efforts. We hope you will continue to serve us and to counsel us. Your efforts and example are needed now."

The handwritten note of a woman from Florida was simpler and more direct, but the sentiment was the same:

"Please continue your efforts to secure the presidential tapes. You are truly a great man, and we need to be informed about the tapes. We are with you."

One former neighbor of Cox's from suburban Wayland, Mass., couldn't resist a bit of humor. From Hartford, Conn., he wrote:

"I take you back to the morning of January 1, 1961, in the Wayland town hall. There assembled were you and the other Selectmen, me and my colleagues from the Board of Health, the town council and other distinguished citizens. The issue: The Great Wayland Cat-house Controversy (a proposal to establish a shelter for cats in the town).

"The reason for the unusual timing: your departure on the following day to become Solicitor General of the United States. As I re-



ARCHIBALD COX
... "real hero stuff"

call, the cats lost after several hours of vigorous discussion. Your parting words to that assemblage were, 'Gentlemen, I hope that I shall never again be involved in a case so difficult as the Great Cat-house Controversy.' Well, Archie, you finally have!"