

Tricia Denies Marriage Is Breaking Up

Washington

Tricia Nixon Cox yesterday branded as "a deliberate lie" rumors that she is breaking up with her husband, Edward Finch Cox.

President Nixon's daughter was reached by telephone by Pat Nixon's press secretary, Helen McCain Smith, and denied rumors that have been floating for some time that she and her husband will split up.

"There's nothing to it," said Mrs. Smith, who said Tricia had authorized her to issue the denial.

Friends and observers began asking questions when Tricia stayed with her parents over the New Year's holiday while her husband remained in New York.

She stayed with the Nixons for 18 days in San Clemente and Palm Desert, and did not return to her New York home until Tuesday, two days after the Nixons returned to Washington.

Cox is a junior lawyer in the Wall Street law firm of Cravath and Swain.

Tricia told Mrs. Smith that he had been working very hard and that she felt that this was "an important time" to be with her parents.

The denial was issued after a newspaper and a television network informed White House aides that they were about to come out with stories reporting a breakup of the marriage.

The Coxes were married on June 12, 1971.

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