

Tricia Tells Them



AP Wirephoto

President's daughter, Tricia, and husband, Edward Cox, at Washington rally

The Coxes Meet Press— Strongly Defend Nixon

Washington

Her eyes flashing, Tricia Nixon Cox said yesterday she felt a "sense of outrage" over attacks against her father and asked: "Why should he resign? He hasn't done anything wrong."

In a rare public appearance outside the White House, Tricia attended a pro-Nixon rally in Lafayette Square across the street and then vigorously lectured reporters at an impromptu sidewalk news conference.

Standing by her side was her 27-year-old husband,

Wall Street lawyer Edward Cox, who called former White House counsel John W. Dean III a "coward" and said the President was the victim of "one of the most vicious witch hunts in American history."

Tricia said proudly: "My father is going to fulfill the mandate he was given to rule the country."

She and Cox spoke together for the first time in public at the rally of an estimated 1500 persons sponsored by the "National Prayer and Fast for the Watergate Crisis."

Cox said the President has

been subjected to "malicious persecution through lies, slander and innuendo . . . irresponsible reporting, just one false story after false story."

On recurrent demands for Mr. Nixon's resignation because of Watergate and other allegations of improprieties, Tricia demanded, "Why should he resign? He hasn't done anything wrong. With my father as President, I know the next three years will be the best."

"My father has accomplished so much for the world. He has done so much good for people."

Cox dismissed as "a mess of punk" persistent rumors that he and the President disagree politically, and denounced as "absolutely ridiculous" reports that his marriage to Tricia was breaking up.

"They're malicious rumors," Tricia said, her eyes sparkling as she looked at her husband. "We really love each other."

"I missed Trish very much" when she was in California with the President, Cox said. "I love her very much" but "she's a joy to her father" who needed her with him during "a very difficult time."

Cox said that when the rumors were published Tricia had been "back in New York two days, cleaning up three weeks of dirty dishes"

in their apartment.

Cox heaped his scorn on Dean, who was Mr. Nixon's chief accuser at the Senate Watergate hearings last summer when he testified he believed the President knew of the Watergate coverup as early as Sept. 15, 1972.

"John Dean was a coward who didn't tell" the President of the coverup, Cox said.

He said Dean's "whole object was to get immunity. Just analyze what Dean has said. My feeling is that the President will be proved to have done nothing wrong."

Cox complained that Dean's "assumptions were taken as truth" while a statement by Egil (Bud) Krogh, former head of the White House "Plumbers," exonerating the President "didn't get publicity at all."

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