

Tricia, Cox Speak Out For Nixon



Tricia Nixon Cox and her husband, Edward, make an appearance at a pro-Nixon rally sponsored by the National Prayer and Fast for the Watergate Crisis.

United Press International

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Edward Cox, President Nixon's son-in-law, emotionally denounced Watergate charges against the President yesterday as "one of the most vicious witch hunts in American history."

Cox told reporters that Mr. Nixon is being "persecuted by charges in the press which would prove to be untrue."

Cox and his wife, Tricia, made a campaign-style appearance in Lafayette Park across the street from the White House at a pro-Nixon rally sponsored by the National Prayer and Fast for the Watergate Crisis.

The couple also denounced as "malicious" rumors that their marriage is breaking up.

"I don't know how they get started," Tricia said. Then, looking at her husband, she said, "We really love each other."

Cox delivered his strongest attacks on former White House counsel John W. Dean III, who testified that Mr. Nixon knew of the Watergate cover-up.

"John Dean was a coward" who didn't tell the President of the cover-up, Cox said. He said that Dean's "whole object was to get immunity."

"My feeling is that in the end the President will be proved to have done nothing wrong," he said.

Cox said that both he and his wife and the President had been subjected to "false story after false story."

"With my father as President I know the next three years will be the best," Mrs. Cox said. "My father has accomplished so much for the world. He has done so much good for people."

This was the first time since the Watergate scandal erupted that both Tricia and her husband have spoken out so strongly. Mrs. Cox has remained mostly in the background, letting her younger sister, Julie Eisenhower, do most of the speaking in their father's defense.

[In an interview on CBS, Julie Eisenhower described her brother-in-law as "so supportive and so great and so wonderful and yet read these stories that he doesn't get along with the family..." She said Cox, a lawyer, wanted to quit his job in New York two months ago and work as a volunteer on the White House legal staff.]