

Tricia's Defense Of Her Father

Los Angeles

Strongly protesting her father's innocence, Tricia Nixon Cox declared yesterday that those who would impeach the President "won't get away with it."

"I know with God's help and with my father's strong spirit things will turn out all right," Tricia said in an impromptu interview at a party in fashionable Bel Air hosted by budget director Roy Ash.

Her eyes blazing, the President's older daughter made several comments on her father's accusers as the President stood in a nearby receiving line with Mrs. Nixon and Mr. and Mrs. Ash.

About 140 of California's top business leaders and long-time Nixon supporters were mingling nearby under a huge tent in the garden of the house once owned by comedian W.C. Fields.

Tricia blamed jealousy on the part of "people out of power" for the attacks on her father. She said she and her husband, Wall Street lawyer Edward Cox, are "both appalled that some people will go to any lengths

to get my father out of office. But they won't get away with it because this is a country of justice."

"Innocence is innocence and my father is innocent," she said, her voice rising slightly. "I am so proud of my father."

She said that her husband had read the brief by Mr. Nixon's chief Watergate lawyer James St. Clair to the House Judiciary Committee, and believes it proves that Mr. Nixon had

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"nothing to do with Watergate."

Speaking of her husband, Tricia said "he says if the committee votes impeachment it will be a political maneuver by people who want to get Richard Nixon out of office at any cost."

St. Clair and his wife had just flown in to California from the east yesterday afternoon and were also guests at the Ash dinner party.

St. Clair was friendly to reporters but told them that he would be holding a news conference today and declined to answer direct questions before then.

Also mingling in the crowd nearby was James Roosevelt, son of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who supported Mr. Nixon in 1972.

Asked if he was still supporting Mr. Nixon, Roosevelt replied, "He's still my President." He said if he

had the choice to make over again he would again vote for Mr. Nixon.

One of the first guests to greet Mr. Nixon was former Los Angeles mayor Sam Yorty, who gave the President a kiss on the cheek.

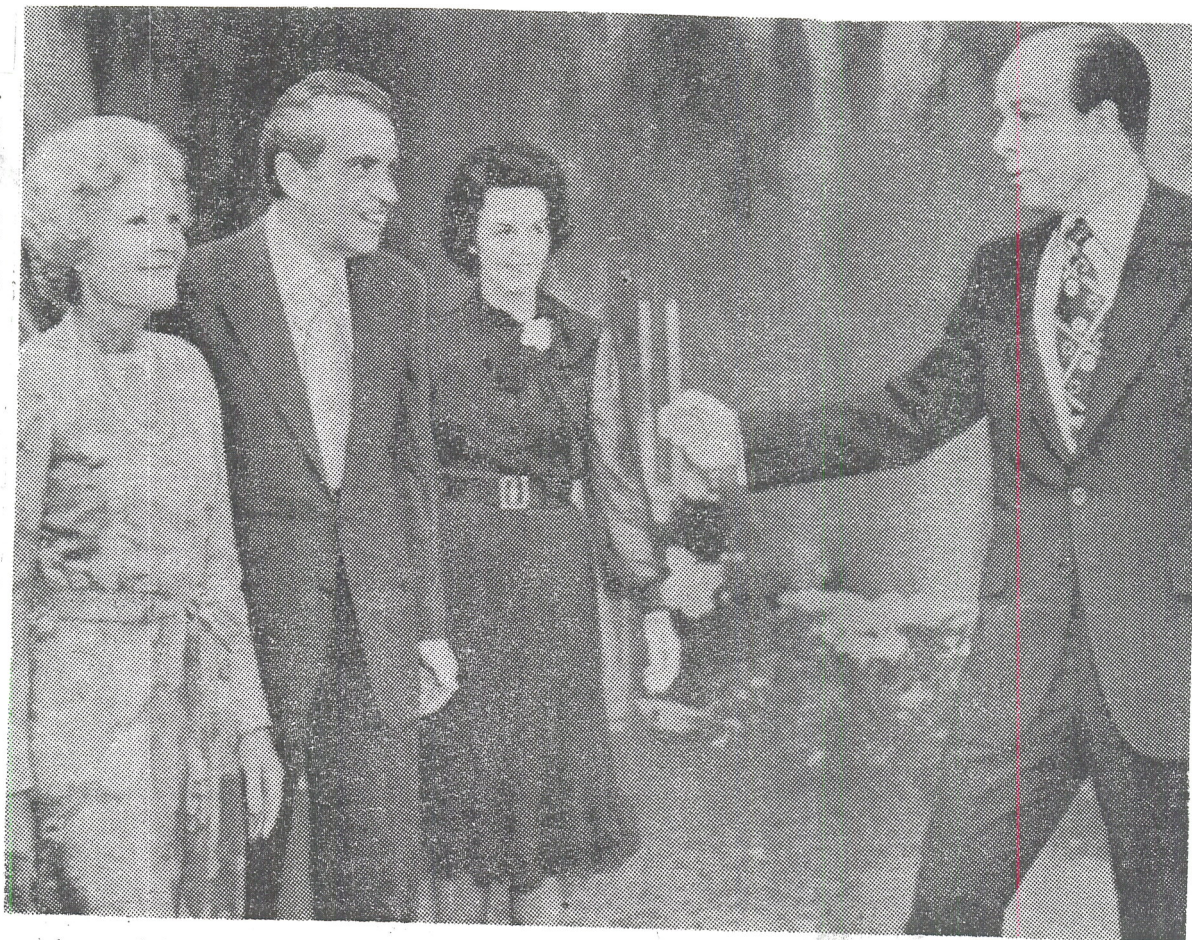
The party was lively and like old times for Mr. Nixon, with no hint of the impeachment clouds hanging over his head. Guests, almost all of them familiar faces, went through the receiving line jovially clasping the President's hand and wishing him

well.

Mr. Nixon, wearing a bright red and white dress with a double strand of pearls, bounced happily up and down on her heels and blew kisses at her friends.

The elite from the banking, aeronautical and oil industries of California converged for the party. Another family guest was Donald Nixon, the President's younger brother whose name has figured in Watergate-related stories.

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President and Mrs. Nixon were welcomed to the party by budget director Roy Ash and his wife

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