

# 'Why Nixon Fired Cox'

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Former President Richard M. Nixon claimed during the 1973 "Saturday night massacre" that he had to fire Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox because Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev "would never understand it if I let Cox defy my instructions," says a victim of the massacre.

Elliot L. Richardson, then Mr.

Nixon's attorney general, said Mr. Nixon made that remark to him during a private Oval Office meeting on October 20, 1973, when Richardson told Mr. Nixon he was resigning rather than fire Cox.

Richardson, now secretary of commerce, describes the event in an article in the current issue of the Atlantic Monthly magazine.

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