

'Not Just Because of Cox'

by Paige Eversole

"By coming we're showing interest and initiative and that we care about the situation."

"Something is definitely wrong and although we don't know what to do ourselves, we want to take some kind of action."

These comments from two sophomore coeds, summed up fairly well the atmosphere of the rally held Monday afternoon to protest the presidential firing of special prosecutor Archibald Cox and Deputy Attorney General William French Smith and the forced resignation of Attorney General Elliot Richardson. Some observers came out of curiosity, some were looking for amusement and others, plainly outraged at the weekend's events, appeared to express their views.

The so-called 'non-partisan' rally held on the Campus Center lawn quickly turned into an anti-Nixon gathering of about 350 students, faculty and passers-by. Cheers of approval and applause interrupted speeches made by Richard Williamson, associate dean of the Marshall-Wythe Law School, and F. Robert Bohl, Assistant Professor of Philosophy.

Williamson spoke briefly on the legal and constitutional ramifications of the present situation and explained the im-

peachment process. Grounds for impeachment as given in the Constitution are "high crimes and misdemeanors."

Williamson noted, however, that three years ago when House minority leader Gerald Ford introduced a resolution to impeach Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, Ford claimed that grounds for impeachment are whatever the House decides them to be, that it is votes rather than facts that are needed for impeachment.

Concluding, Williamson stressed the fact that "impeachment, above all else, is not something to fear. Those who say the country can't take it are showing contempt for our political system."

Speaking on "Nixonian Ethics," Bohl drew enthusiastic response from his listeners by terming Nixon aids as "yes men and flunkies," the military as "agents of death" and by asserting that "people no longer lie, they make inoperative statements."

Citing warnings from Plato on "power morality," Bohl ended his speech by calling for Nixon's immediate impeachment.

Between speakers there were constant reminders of petitions available calling for Nixon's impeachment and

listeners were urged to write letters, all of which were to be sent to Peter Rodino, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. At the end of the hour-long rally, quite a few letters had been written and according to one of the students in charge "they seem to be overwhelmingly in favor of impeachment."

Sophomore Jim Klagge gave a short presentation of memorable Nixon quotes from his past, all high-sounding at the time, but now worthy only of ridicule. A November 1968 quote of Nixon's to the effect that the President's job is to put the right men in charge can hardly be taken seriously.

Student Association Vice-President Sharon Pandak followed with a reminder of the "underlying seriousness" of the problem despite Klagge's humorous touch. Pandak also expressed the hope of students "maintaining awareness" rather than slipping into apathetic ways.

Freshman Mark Colley, organizer of the initial protest held early Sunday morning, explained that the whole idea of the event originated in Tyler B and refers to himself as simply a spokesman for the group. About 150 persons were present for the protest held at 1:00 am. Sunday morning, which in-

cluded the burning of Nixon posters and received national news coverage. Colley felt it significant William and Mary was one of the few colleges in the country to hold such a protest.

In an effort to present all points of view during Monday's rally, the floor was opened after the speakers finished for extemporaneous speech or comment. No volunteers came forward, but Debbie Wood, one of the organizers, said, "This rally isn't meant to be one-sided, it is open to all speakers. We feel that Nixon is guilty of cutting off free speech which is epitomized by this weekend's events. We do not intend to do that at all."

Although disappointed at what he felt was a small crowd, Colley described himself as both pleased and happy at the word of mouth impact the event had on the campus.

Assistant Professor of History Cam Walker, who attended the rally, noted the importance of writing to congressmen about impeachment proceedings. "Impeachment is legitimate at this point, not just because of Cox." Mentioning the solid evidence that would come from the process, Walker repeated, "Impeachment is a legitimate tool and now is the time to use it."

