

Richardson sworn in at big ceremony

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Washington—With extraordinary ceremony, Elliot L. Richardson was sworn in at the White House yesterday as the 69th Attorney General of the United States.

Archibald Cox, whose selection as special Watergate prosecutor helped insure Mr. Richardson's confirmation by the Senate, was sworn in a little more than two hours later at a brief ceremony in the Justice Department.

Independence doubted

Mr. Richardson pledged in a brief speech to an audience of 200 in the White House East Room that he would run the Justice Department fairly and fearlessly.

His confirmation had nearly foundered because of Senate fears that he would not be independent enough from an administration in which he had already served in two Cabinet posts and that he would not give enough independence to his Watergate prosecutor.

Warren E. Burger, Chief Justice of the United States, administered the oath to Mr. Richardson, with President

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Richardson sworn in with pomp

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Nixon, congressmen, federal officials and prominent lawyers looking on.

The President used the occasion to announce that Mr. Richardson will retain his seat on the National Security Council.

That announcement, as well as the location and size of yesterday's ceremony, is presumably an indication of the importance the President wishes to lend to the Richardson appointment.

The East Room is usually reserved for major official functions, and interim swearings-in are usually small affairs attended only by a handful of close friends and family members.

Mr. Richardson's predecessor, Richard G. Kleindienst, announced his resignation April 30, giving as a reason his close association with potential

defendants in the Watergate criminal prosecution.

Without mentioning the word Watergate, Mr. Richardson said after the swearing in that American institutions are now undergoing severe stress.

"It is not because the structure is not sound," he said. "It is sound. If there are flaws, they are in ourselves. The task is not one of redesign but one of renewal and reaffirmation."

The new Attorney General later went to the Justice Department to speak at the ceremony for Mr. Cox, technically his subordinate, but one over whom Mr. Richardson has formally relinquished all control except for the power to fire for "extraordinary improprieties."

Mr. Richardson praised Mr. Cox as a man who will carry out his duties with "fairness, integrity and fearlessness"

Charles Fahy, senior circuit judge of the District of Columbia U.S. Court of Appeals, ad-

ministered the oath. Both Judge Fahy and Mr. Cox are former solicitors general.

Mr. Cox, a Democrat, served in that capacity under the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. He said after he was sworn in that Mr. Richardson had given him "all the powers and independence any man could wish to perform the task" of investigating Watergate.

He told reporters he is still looking for office space and for permanent assistants to help him in the investigation. Mr. Cox, who has had little trial experience, has promised to select an experienced prosecutor as his chief deputy.

He would say nothing further on the question of how long he plans to retain the three assistant United States attorneys who have been working on the Watergate criminal investigation.