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Attorney General Sets Up Internal 'Watchdog' Unit

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Associated Press

Attorney General Edward H. Levi announced yesterday that he will appoint an internal Justice Department watchdog to oversee investigations of alleged misconduct by department employees, including FBI personnel.

Levi has signed an order creating the Office of Professional Responsibility and said he will appoint an individual to run it within 15 days.

By his action, Levi is carrying out promises made by two predecessors as much as two years ago.

Former Atty. Gen. Elliot L. Richardson first proposed appointing an inspector general in the Justice Department shortly before he was forced out of office during the Watergate case in October 1973.

The next attorney general, William B. Saxbe, issued an order establishing such an operation last January. But the order took effect about two weeks before Saxbe resigned

and has not been put into practice until now.

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