

CITY BAR CHIEF ASKS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

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WASHINGTON, April 26—

The president of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York called on President Nixon today to appoint a special prosecutor in the Watergate case.

In a letter to Mr. Nixon, the bar president, Orville H. Schell Jr., said that the 10,000-member association was "greatly concerned that the investigation of the Watergate matter is presently under the direction of the Department of Justice.

"This arrangement," said Mr. Schell, "has resulted in justifiable doubt concerning possible conflict of interest, as well as problems relating to professional ethics."

Earl J. Silbert, an assistant United States attorney here, is prosecuting the case under the direction of Henry E. Petersen, the head of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department.

Mr. Schell suggested that a bar leader take over the prosecution and reminded Mr. Nixon that President Coolidge appointed a special counsel in the Teapot Dome investigation in the nineteen-twenties.

The letter was delivered to the White House this morning.