

Cox to Get All Justice Reports On Possible Political Offenses

6/11/73
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Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson yesterday directed rush-order submission of all reports on "possible offenses" involving the Nixon administration to special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox.

In a three-page directive to all Justice Department personnel, Richardson said pending investigations and prosecutions would "continue for the present without interruption" but that Cox would have to be consulted before any "significant decisions" are made.

At the same time, Cox's office announced the appointment of former Justice Department prosecutor Thomas F. McBride, 44, to the expanding "Watergate Special Prosecution Force."

A member of the Justice Department's organized crime section from 1961 to 1965, McBride will be assigned initially to oversee the prosecution of alleged political saboteur Donald H. Segretti in Florida and the investigation by a Federal grand jury in Houston of surreptitious financing for the Watergate break-in itself.

"What we're trying to do at the moment is get as broad a picture as we can of all the matters under our jurisdiction," James Vorenberg, one of Cox's special assistants, told newsmen at an afternoon briefing.

He said Cox hopes to name another experienced

prosecutor as his chief deputy within another week.

Cox and his staff have been working temporarily at offices in the Justice Department, but will move next week into government-leased quarters of their own at 1425 K St. nw.

Special precautions, Vorenberg said, will be taken to guard against break-ins, bugging and tapping of telephones.

"We want an operation which we and the public know is secure," Vorenberg said.

Following through on his pledge to give Cox a broad mandate with full authority to carry it out, Richardson noted in his directive that the special prosecutor will be in charge of investigating and prosecuting:

- Last year's "unauthorized entry" into Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate.

- "All offenses arising out of the 1972 presidential election as far as the special prosecutor deems it necessary and appropriate to assume responsibility."

- Any other "allegations involving the President, members of the White House staff or presidential appointees."

As a result, Richardson said that, effective immediately, all investigative and other reports and all administrative and other communications concerning "actual or potential investigations or prosecutions of possible offenses" under Cox's jurisdiction are to be submitted

directly to Cox "until further notice."

Investigative reports and other findings by FBI field agents may be submitted to U.S. attorneys unless Cox rules otherwise, Richardson said. But the Attorney General added that Cox would have to be notified of any copies that are given out.

Under guidelines hammered out during hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Cox will determine to what extent he will keep even Richardson informed of his work.

Vorenberg said that much of Cox's work at the present is being devoted to building up his own staff. He said "there's just been an amazing outpouring" of applications from lawyers and others.

McBride has been staff director for the past 2½ years of the Police Foundation, a Washington-based organization involving in financing improvements in law enforcement. As Justice Department attorney, he handled the prosecution of Teamsters officials in Philadelphia as well as gambling and political corruption cases.

Both Cox and Vorenberg met Wednesday with Samuel Dash, chief counsel for the Senate Watergate investigating committee, but Vorenberg declined to comment.

He had no comment when asked whether the Senate committee's bid to grant former White House counsel John W. Dean II immunity for his testimony was discussed.