

Henry Ruth Named Special Prosecutor

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By Bob Kuttner

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Attorney General William B. Saxbe yesterday named Henry S. Ruth to succeed Leon Jaworski as Watergate special prosecutor.

Ruth, who has been deputy special prosecutor since June, 1973, was Jaworski's choice for the job. He is to be sworn in Friday or Saturday.

The nomination, which has been rumored for several days, came after Saxbe conferred with President Ford by telephone yesterday morning. In keeping with the President's wish to accomplish the transition with minimal fanfare, the formal announce-

ment was low key, and was not made by Saxbe in person.

A prepared statement by Saxbe called Ruth "the best choice to complete the remaining work of the office." He said the appointment was cleared with the Democratic and Republican Congressional leadership and ranking majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, as well as with President Ford.

A Senate Judiciary Committee staff member said there were no plans for hearings on Ruth's nomination. The appointment does not require formal confirmation, although the committee could still call a hearing.

In making the announcement, Saxbe pledged that Ruth will "have the same independence as his predecessor in carrying out his duties." Jaworski held the job for not quite a full year. He succeeded Archibald Cox, who was fired Oct. 20, 1973, in what came to be known as the "Saturday Night Massacre."

In a letter to Jaworski, who

See RUTH, A10, Col. 7.

Jaworski's Deputy Henry Ruth Named Special Prosecutor

RUTH, From A1

is returning to a \$200,000-a-year law practice in Houston, Saxbe praised "the magnificent service you have rendered to the country."

Ruth, 43, a Philadelphia native, worked in the Justice Department's Criminal Division in the early 1960s under Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. He came to the Watergate Special Prosecution Force after serving as director of the New York City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Like his two predecessors, Ruth is a Democrat.

He is widely credited with holding together the staff of the Watergate prosecution team during the 10 chaotic days after President Nixon temporarily ordered the office abolished last year.

Ruth has had general responsibility for administration of the special prosecutor's office, and has had direct charge of the pending investigation into illegal Nixon re-election campaign contributions by dairy cooperatives.

In a brief appearance before television cameras outside the special prosecutor's K Street office yesterday, Ruth said he was gratified by the appointment, but declined to discuss how he will conduct the office.

The work of the office is expected to continue until at least next spring. In addition to the Watergate cover-up trial now in progress, the prosecution force is still investigating several other Watergate-related areas, including the dairy contributions and illegal corporate contributions.

Ruth will undoubtedly continue Jaworski's efforts to get scores of Nixon administration tapes and documents for the dairy investigation. The materials are now under the control of the White House, which professes to be neutral in the dispute. In an interview with The Washington Post Monday,

Jaworski hinted at possible new indictments.

The prosecutor's office is also continuing to investigate the settlement of the antitrust suit against the International Telephone and Telegraph Co., and the payment of \$100,000 by billionaire Howard R. Hughes to the Nixon campaign through Mr. Nixon's friend, Charles G. "Bebe" Rebozo.

In his letter of resignation to Saxbe Oct. 12, Jaworski said preparation of the special prosecutor's final report was one of the most important remaining duties. Citing Ruth's "familiarity with all matters, still under investigation," Jaworski recommended that Ruth be appointed to succeed him.