

Saxbe Ends

Realigning *Post 4/12/74* Of Justice

Associated Press

Attorney General William B. Saxbe's political friend, J. D. Sawyer, has talked himself out of a top Justice Department job and the fancy new office suite Saxbe provided him.

Saxbe has decided to abolish the \$38,000-a-year job of associate attorney general less than three months after he appointed Sawyer to it.

Sawyer said he recommended the move because he concluded "there is really no role for the associate attorney general . . . if the department is to function effectively and along traditional lines."

By recommending an end to his own job, he became a rarity in the Washington bureaucracy.

The sudden end of Sawyer's Justice Department career was announced yesterday as part of a plan to scrap a department reorganization imposed by former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson.

Saxbe's decision, subject to staff review for two weeks, re-

turns the department to a traditional system Richardson considered fragmented and ineffective.

Sawyer, who managed Saxbe's successful Senate campaign in 1968, said he expects to leave the department in about six weeks and return to his real estate business in Middletown, Ohio, after a Florida vacation.

He told reporters that when he accepted the job, he anticipated staying about a year. As it turned out, he stayed hardly long enough to settle into an office suite enlarged and redecorated at a cost of \$25,500.

The renovation was begun shortly after his appointment and carried out as part of a larger project costing a total of \$79,500. Sawyer moved into quarters once occupied by the Office of Legal Counsel, requiring that unit to move into new offices which also were refurbished.

Saxbe, Deputy Attorney General Lawrence E. Silberman and Sawyer presented the plan to other department officials late Wednesday and awaited their comments before making it final, probably at another staff meeting April 24.

If the positions were continued, Sawyer and the heads of the other three units would have been paid annual salaries totaling at least \$146,000 and s ssisCMFWYP

their secretaries and assistants would have earned several hundred thousand dollars more.