

# The Text of Richardson's Statement

Following is the statement issued by Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson:

Recently there has been widespread and highly varied public speculation regarding both the substance and the procedure related to the investigation of the Vice President. Although it would be improper to discuss the substance of the investigation at this stage, I feel it necessary to clarify certain procedural points in order to reduce unwarranted and potentially harmful speculation.

In the period of Sept. 12 to the present, meetings and

discussions have taken place between myself, Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen, and United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, George Beall, representing the Department of Justice, and Messrs. Jay H. Topkis, Martin London and Judah Best, counsel to the Vice President. The Department of Justice agreed to participate in these meetings in response to a request by the Vice President's counsel to discuss procedural aspects of the case and options available to the Vice President. The department did so with a view toward the possible

prompt resolution of problems which might otherwise result in a constitutional dilemma of potentially serious consequence to the nation. These discussions took place with the approval of the President's counsel and the President.

The discussions have, however, failed to yield a satisfactory resolution. It has proved impossible, to this point, to reconcile the Vice President's interests, as represented by his counsel, with the Department of Justice's perception of its responsibility to assure that justice is pursued fully and fairly.

On Sept. 13, I authorized U.S. Attorney Beall to present evidence regarding the Vice President to the federal grand jury sitting in Baltimore. It is the intention of the Department of Justice to present such evidence to the grand jury when it reconvenes on Sept. 27.

The grand jury will be used, in accordance with well-established practice, as an investigative body. This is a traditional function of a federal grand jury, whose role, as representative of the community, is to ensure the fairness of the investigative process.