

Watergate Files -- Protection Sought

Washington

Still jittery over last weekend's FBI takeover of its files, the Watergate special prosecution force asked a federal court yesterday to issue an order preventing a recurrence.

The order would put the task force's files in the custody of U.S. District Court — not to be removed by anyone except a staff attorney whose tenure dates back to last Friday, or Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen.

Petersen has been assigned the duties that formerly belonged to special prosecutor Archibald Cox, who was fired by President Nixon on Saturday.

RESPONSIBILITY

"The responsibility for security of these materials is ... uncertain," the motion said. It was signed by Henry S. Ruth, deputy to Cox and six other ranking staff members, as well as Petersen.

It called attention to the rapid-fire events that

SFChronicle

Duke Votes To Impeach

Durham, N.C.

Students at Duke University called yesterday for President Nixon's impeachment, charging him and "those close to him" with kidnapping, perjury, blackmail and burglary.

"The President may go down in the floodtide of justice," said Duke Chancellor John Blackburn, "but the presidency will rise to the top."

United Press

brought the resignation of Attorney General Elliot Richardson, the dismissal of Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus, the ouster of Cox and the sealing of the prosecution force's offices by the FBI.

"These agents superseded the security arrangements

which had theretofore been enforced," the motion said. The FBI agents were later withdrawn, to be replaced by U.S. marshals who had custody of the office until Monday morning.

PROBE

"The acting attorney general and the assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division (Petersen) ... have, both stated that they intend to continue with full and vigorous investigations," the motion said, adding without elaboration:

"The status of the records developed by the Watergate special prosecution force before and for the grand juries and the responsibility for security of these materials is therefore uncertain."

Ruth and the others asked that a U.S. marshal serve the order on the General Services Administration, the director of the FBI, the director of the U.S. marshals service and the Department of Justice.

Associated Press