

Bork Backs Policies of Richardson

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Acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork assured Justice Department employees yesterday that he will continue the policies of former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson as long as he heads the department.

Bork, who is Solicitor General, became the department's chief executive after Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus resigned Oct. 20 rather than follow President Nixon's order to fire Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Before his resignation, Richardson had taken several actions to counter what he called in a speech to the American Bar Association last Aug. 8 "the suspicion that political considerations or political influence can color the administration of justice."

Specifically, Richardson pledged to foreswear politics himself, asked his principal aides to do the same, and ordered department employees contacted about pending cases by "outside parties," including members of Congress, to write a memo on such a contact and put it in the case file.

He also put into effect a department reorganization which centralized in his own office such functions as management, budget, and

planning, and he issued guidelines designed to limit the department's discretion in questioning or subpoenaing reporters.

Bork said in his message to Justice employees, that he intends "to continue the efforts begun so splendidly by Mr. Richardson and Mr. Ruckelshaus to demonstrate to the American people that the processes of justice are intact and working as they should.

"The Richardson policies on the recording of outside contacts, departmental reorganization, press guidelines, and other matters will be my policies."

Sen. William B. Saxbe (R-Ohio), whom President Nixon has nominated to be the new Attorney General in a recent interview referred to the "very deep and severe reorganization" that Richardson had just implemented and said, "Now I have to decide whether I'm going to throw it out the window or not"

"But it looks reasonable to me, and I'm really not in a position to judge whether it is or not because I'm not familiar with the whole setup."