

A Letter From Bork

New Limits on Jaworski 'Possible'

Washington

Acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork said in a letter released yesterday that the special Watergate prosecutor's independence can be limited if eight congressional leaders agree.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), who released the letter, said the understanding had been that there would be no limit on new prosecutor Leon Jaworski's independence, but that Bork is now contending there could be.

Bork said in the letter that

a "drafting error" in Jaworski's charter made it appear that the consensus among congressional leaders is required only for Jaworski's dismissal by the attorney general. Such a consensus also could be asked to limit his independence or jurisdiction, Bork said.

The eight leaders named by the White House earlier are the leaders of both parties in each House and the chairmen and ranking Republicans on each of the Judiciary committees. They are Senators Mike Mansfield

(Dem-Mont.); Hugh Scott, (Rep-Pa.); James O. Eastland, (Dem-Miss.); Roman Hruska, (Rep-Neb.); and Representatives Thomas P. O'Neil, (Dem-Mass.); Gerald R. Ford (Rep-Mich.); Peter W. Rodino Jr., (Dem-N.J.) and Edward Hutchinson (Rep-Mich.)

Kennedy said Bork's disclosure meant that "investigations can be shut off, sensitive areas protected from the scrutiny of the special prosecutor, and friends of the White House given refuge, all with the Congress

as the inadvertent cooperator."

Bork's letter, dated Tuesday, said, "although public discussion has focused on removal it was intended that the 'consensus' provision apply to any attempt to limit the special prosecutor's independence, including his jurisdiction."

He added that "consensus on any action which the special prosecutor opposes is so exceedingly unlikely as not to be a practical possibility."

United Press