

Way Clear for Saxbe Nomination

Washington

The House voted yesterday to lower the attorney general's salary by \$25,000 a year, clearing the way for President Nixon to nominate Senator William Saxbe for the job.

There was no immediate indication from the White House when the Saxbe nomination would be sent to the Senate, but Mr. Nixon is expected to sign the salary bill quickly.

An aide said the Senate Judiciary Committee will attempt to act on the nomination quickly so Saxbe can be approved before Congress adjourns for Christmas.

The salary reduction bill is designed to allow Saxbe to circumvent a constitutional provision prohibiting him from taking an office for which he voted a salary increase during the same congressional term.

Saxbe was in the first year of his current Senate term in 1969 when Congress voted to raise the salary for Cabinet officers from \$35,000 to \$60,000.

Yesterday's salary bill, which passed the House without objection, would lower the salary for attorney

general to \$35,000 and would provide for a quick court test of the constitutionality of the action.

Saxbe was named by Mr. Nixon on November 1 as the person he wants to replace Elliot Richardson, who quit as attorney general October 20 rather than follow Mr. Nixon's orders to fire special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Acting Attorney General Robert Bork told Senate committees the White House would not send the nomination to Congress until the salary reduction bill was passed because the nomination might be considered illegal if it were made before Saxbe was made eligible.

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