

independent

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WASHINGTON — The independence of the special Watergate prosecutor has been increased by the firing of Archibald Cox, former Attorney General Elliott L. Richardson says.

The Watergate crisis and the firing of Cox have brought about "heavy damage to public confidence in the administration," Richardson said in a television interview. "(Leon) Jaworski is dealing from a position of even greater independence and strength, if that's possible, than Mr. Cox already had."

Richardson also said the only way President Nixon can rebuild public confidence would be to demonstrate that "he is cooperating fully with the effort by the court and the special prosecutor to get out all the facts."