Norris says Younger puts Nixon above law

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SACRAMENTO — Democrat William A. Norris said yesterday his Republican opponent, Atty. Gen. Evelle Younger, has long shown he considers Richard Nixon above the law.

Norris, who is seeking to unseat Younger in the Nov. 5 election, has been urging Younger to call a special grand jury to investigate any crimes Nixon may have committed under California law.

Younger said Monday that President Ford's federal pardon of Nixon doesn't preclude state prosecution, but said action is up to local district attorneys.

"Younger had better go back to the law library," Norris told a news conference. "Under the California Constitution the buck stops on the attorney general's desk."

Norris has suggested nine areas in which Nixon may have violated state law, most of them centering around a 1971 break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

On Tuesday, Los Angeles Dist. Atty. Joseph Busch said prospects were slim that Nixon would be prosecuted in the Ellsberg case, in part because the three-year statute of limitations had run out.

But Norris said, "As I read the law, the statute of limitations isn't running whenever the prospective defendant is out of the state"