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Richardson

make public

Nixon facts

By Carol Pogash

Elliot Richardson, the former attorney general under President Nixon, called yesterday on the special Watergate prosecutor's office to release its findings against the former President.

In the Bay Area to campaign for Republican candidate, Richardson said:

"I think they (the special prosecutor's office) should make clear what findings they made as to grounds for proceeding against the former President.

"It would have been better before (Nixon) was pardoned if any possible charges against him had been made known first."

"An important point" Richardson wanted to make is "that there should be a final report which fills in any blanks not already covered by (congressional) committee hearings and the (Watergate) trials."

Richardson dramatically illustrated his opposition to a White House cover-up on Oct. 20, 1973 when he resigned as Attorney General rather than obey President Nixon's orders to fire Spe-

cial Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Before becoming the top law official in the country, Richardson served the Nixon administration as Secretary of Health Education and Welfare and Secretary of Defense.

Yesterday he evaluated the resignation of Leon Jaworski and said he did not think the move would weaken the office of the special prosecutor.

He endorsed the Jaworski's suggestion that deputy prosecutor Henry Ruth be appointed Special Watergate prosecutor.

"Henry Ruth is a very able, experienced guy who would maintain the independence of the office," Richardson said.

He said the special Prosecutor's office will not fade into oblivion.

"It could easily be around a couple more years. They have to finish the cases now pending. The trials could be quite lengthy. And there could be appellate proceedings following that," he said.

Richardson agreed with Jaworski "that the toughest hurdles already have been surmounted."

The former attorney general was in the Bay Area yesterday campaigning in Orinda for Gary Fernandez, a Republican congressional candidate in the seventh district, and speaking to the United Republican Finance Committee's fund, raising dinner in Palo Alto.

Since leaving the Nixon administration Richardson has become a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.