

FOR PROSECUTOR

White House Listed Names

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Top White House aides recommended two or three candidates for special Watergate prosecutor to Atty. Gen. designate Elliot L. Richardson, he told senators today.

Richardson said, however, that none of the persons suggested was among even the dozen finalists he had considered. He has since narrowed the list of finalists to four persons.

The four, Richardson said today, are two federal judges in New York City, Harold R. Tyler Jr., and David Peck; Judge William Erickson of the Colorado Supreme Court, and

Warren Christopher, a Los Angeles attorney and former deputy attorney general. Richardson said he hopes to be able to announce his choice Tuesday.

Richardson told reporters later that the suggestions for a prosecutor were given to him by Gen. Alexander M. Haig, newly appointed chief of staff at the White House, and Leonard Garment, a counsel to the President.

Richardson said during testimony at the third day of his confirmation hearings that he had not consulted the White House or the President to ask for
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recommendations, but said that "they (White House aides) passed me two or three names." He declined to disclose the names.

ONE REASON that the White House suggestions were not included among the 12 finalists, Richardson said, was that he is primarily interested in finding a candidate with prosecutorial or trial experience and the names put forward did not meet those qualifications.

Richardson said he has received no instructions from the White House on what the duties of the prosecutor should be. This, he said, would be inconsistent with the President's statement that he would not interfere with the Watergate investigation.

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee questioned him closely on the authority that would be invested in the special prosecutor. He maintained that, although he would retain final authority, the special prosecutor would be given complete freedom to carry out the investigation.

On a variety of other fronts in the pervasive Watergate issue, there were these developments:
● Rep. John B. Anderson, R-Ill., chairman of the



United Press International

Sen. Howard Baker on television yesterday.

House Republican Conference, said on the CBS "Face the Nation" television show yesterday that while there are "mutterings" about impeachment of President Nixon, "I think it's inappropriate at this moment of time."

● Nixon may be invited to "state his side of the case" in the Watergate affair to a Senate committee that

opens public hearings this week, said Sen. Howard H. Baker, R-Tenn., the panel's senior Republican, on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"I exclude no one from potential involvement" in the case, Baker said.

● Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz issued a blast at the Senate Watergate investigation. In a speech at

the University of North Carolina he said he views the inquiry as a "very improper . . . political inquisition," the Associated Press reported.

● A Treasury Department official, who until recently was a key aide to resigned Presidential adviser John D. Ehrlichman, yesterday went on "administrative leave" after a report that he tried to pressure con-

victed Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr., to keep quiet with a promise of executive clemency later. The Los Angeles Times reported yesterday that John J. Caulfield, 44, twice met secretly with McCord while he was on trial in January and extended the offer. Caulfield has denied the report.

On discussions about impeachment of Nixon, Rep. Anderson said that while there "are mutterings, I don't think it's a movement that has reached serious proportions" and he feels it is "inappropriate at this moment of time."

Anderson said, "what we're interested, I think, in doing is strengthening our institutions of government in this moment of crisis. And when we look back on the only instance in which a President was impeached and consider that, for almost a generation that followed, we were plunged into an orgy of recrimination. . . . I don't think we want to get into that kind of thing at this time. . . ."

"If someone has said Watergate is a boil that has now been lanced . . . the time has come for therapeutic measures and I certainly wouldn't regard impeachment as a therapeutic process."

SEN. BAKER, on "Meet the Press," called the issue of impeachment "the most severe form of 'iffy' questions," but went on:

"If, in fact, the President is guilty, as the Constitution prescribes, of high crimes and misdemeanors as determined on the charge of the House and the conviction of the Senate, clearly he would be impeached."

"I would not exclude the possibility that the President might be offered an opportunity to state his side of the case through counsel, by statement or otherwise. And I fully expect that he may, publicly or to the committee or otherwise."

THE SENATE'S seven-member Watergate committee is scheduled to begin televised hearings on the scandal on Thursday.

In Charlotte, N.C., Butz called Sen. Sam Ervin, D-N.C., whose committee is investigating the Watergate affair, a "publicity-seeking senator."

Butz said Ervin's probe was being conducted "largely for political reasons."

He warned that the pretrial publicity the investigation is producing could hinder the judiciary's effort to bring the Watergate defendants to justice.

Butz did not ask that Ervin halt his probe, saying: "He's got to make that decision himself."

Ervin later said Butz's charges are "an absurdity."

"My committee was set up by a unanimous vote of the Senate," Ervin said. "Every Republican in the Senate voted for it. Three of the members of the committee are Republicans."

The report that an administration official had tried to get Watergate conspirator James McCord to keep his mouth shut while he was on trial was followed by the official, John J. Caulfield, being granted — "through normal channels" — administrative leave yesterday from his Treasury post.

Caulfield, for 15 years a member of the New York City police department, spent three years on the White House staff as an aide to Ehrlichman before moving over to the Treasury a year ago. Since July 1, he has been assistant director for criminal enforcement of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms division there.

ACCORDING TO the report in the Los Angeles Times, which quoted what it called a source involved in the matter, Caulfield "repeatedly told McCord at these two meetings" in January that he could expect executive clemency in 10 or 11 months if he remained silent "and accepted imprisonment."

McCord has testified to investigators that he repeatedly rejected similar offers from a co-conspirator,

E. Howard Hunt Jr. In his sworn testimony that has been made public, McCord has not mentioned such pressures from Caulfield.

McCord, however, has testified about how Caulfield recruited him to become security chief for Nixon's re-election campaign.

McCord did not testify at the Watergate trial in

U.S. District Court and was convicted of bugging, burglary, and conspiracy.

In another development,

The Washington Post today reported that L. Patrick Gray, who has resigned as acting director of the FBI, was told by two FBI officials several weeks after the Watergate break-in that there were signs of a coverup and urged that this be reported to President Nixon.

Gray declined to alert Nixon, the Post quoted sources as saying, because

he felt it might appear that he was seeking guidance from the President.

GRAY HAS previously told Senate investigators that less than three weeks after last summer's break-in, he personally told the President of having trouble with the White House staff over the FBI probe.

Gray also complained about the "run-around" he experienced in dealing with the White House staff, according to Senate sources.