

Watergate Jury Prosecutors Still Up in Air on Their Jobs

5/24/73

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A Justice Department spokesman said yesterday that no decisions have been made on whether prosecutors from the U.S. attorney's office here will continue to direct a grand jury investigation into the Watergate affair.

Justice spokesman John Hushen made the statement during a brief press conference following a 2½-hour meeting at the Justice Department between local prosecutors and special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Hushen would not discuss the contents of the closed meeting itself in detail, saying only that it was a "wide-ranging discussion of administrative and procedural matters" relating to the probe. He said a future meeting would be held on an unspecified date.

The meeting came one

day after highly reliable government sources said Watergate prosecutors Earl Silbert Jr., Seymour Glanzer and Donald Campbell threatened to resign from the probe and return to their regular duties in the U.S. attorney's office here. The meeting with Cox apparently was scheduled after their boss, U.S. Attorney Harold H. Titus Jr., told Cox about the planned resignations.

Titus and Glanzer denied published reports of the near resignations yesterday, saying the "thrust" of those stories was inaccurate. Several court sources yesterday again confirmed that the resignations were scheduled to be announced until Cox asked for the meeting.

Several sources have said the resignations were being offered because Cox had not consulted the local prosecutors about his plans in the case. Others said they had

been told the resignations were drawn up because the prosecutors felt they had been indirectly requested by Cox or his advisers, and that a formal request would be forthcoming.

After yesterday's meeting at the Justice Department, neither the local prosecutors nor special prosecutor Cox would comment about the state of the Watergate probe.

Hushen said the meeting was the first detailed discussion of the case between Cox and the local prosecutors and that there were no announcements to be made of any change in the status of the prosecution.

"Does this mean that Mr. Silbert is still on the case at this time?" Hushen was asked.

"That is true," Hushen said. He would not elaborate.

Court sources have said that Silbert and Glanzer told the grand jury hearing Watergate testimony on Tuesday that they would no longer be in charge of the case. No Watergate witnesses currently are scheduled to appear before the grand jury, the sources added.

The sources have pointed out that bringing in a new prosecution team at this point would cause an indefinite delay in the probe, and that merely bringing in the special prosecutor and his staff would prolong it at least a month.

Other sources have said that the local prosecutors feel their investigation could be ended within 60

days if they are allowed to proceed by advising Cox of their actions as they take them.

In the meeting yesterday with Cox and the local prosecutors were Philip B. Heymann, former assistant to Cox when he was solicitor general in the early 1960s, and James Vorenberg, former director of the President's Crime Commission and former Justice Department official.

Hushen said that both Heymann and Vorenberg are now teaching at Harvard Law School, and that both were serving only as temporary advisers to Cox.