

Cox to Name Top Assistants This Week

By George Lardner
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Special prosecutor Archibald Cox expects to name several top assistants in his investigation of the Watergate scandal before the end of the week.

One of them, it was learned, will be assigned fulltime to work with local Watergate prosecutors and catch up with their progress towards a reportedly comprehensive obstructing-justice indictment.

Cox was reportedly incensed last week when U.S. Attorney Harold H. Titus Jr. announced that the three local prosecutors assigned to the Watergate case since last summer—Earl Silbert,

Seymour Glanzer, and Donald Campbell—had offered to resign but agreed to stay on at Cox's request.

In a short letter to Titus last Thursday, Cox said that he had promised to keep them only for the interim.

The prosecutors, whose handling of the initial Watergate investigation last year has been widely criticized, were said to have been miffed by calls for their dismissal.

But their threat to resign was also regarded by some congressional sources as a ploy to keep Cox in a relatively harmless supervisory role.

For the moment, however,

sources close to Cox said yesterday that he is anxious to avoid a climate of distrust between his office and Silbert's operation, and that he hopes his deputy will be accepted in the spirit of cooperation.

A Harvard University law school professor and former solicitor general, Cox has been working in Cambridge, Mass., over the weekend, sifting through a surprising rush of applications to serve on his special strike force for the investigation.

He hopes to designate at least one and perhaps as many as three lawyers this week to begin working as his top-level assistants, on a temporary basis.

In addition, two of his colleagues at Harvard, law professors Phillip E. Heymann and James Vorenberg, will be sworn in today as special assistants to help him this summer. There was no indication of who his other choices might be.

Sworn in last Friday by Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson, Cox has been given full authority to hire his own staff and direct the work of any U.S. attorneys investigating the Watergate scandal and other alleged misdeeds involving the Nixon administration.

About 600 offers to serve on Cox's staff, some from top-flight attorneys, are said

to have been submitted to the Justice Department and to Cox at Harvard law school to help carry out the assignment, sources said.

It will include not only the Watergate break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters last June, but all offenses arising out of the 1972 presidential election that Cox wants to investigate and any other allegations involving the President, members of the White House staff, or presidential appointees.

Consious of the magnitude of the job, Cox, sources said, plans to set up a comprehensive research system—including FBI reports, grand jury testimony and newspaper stories—in an effort to make sure that no potential evidence and possible chains of evidence between one case and another are ignored.

Titus has forecast a "comprehensive" obstructing justice indictment in the Watergate case within 60 to 90 days, based in part on testimony from one key witness who has agreed to plead guilty and testify for the prosecution. The witness was identified by reliable sources as Jeb Stuart Magruder, a former White House aide and top 1972 Nixon campaign deputy.

Mrs. Harmony will be followed by Robert Reisman, who was administrative assistant to Magruder and would have known about meetings in early 1972 at which intelligence-gathering and Watergate itself may have been discussed.