

Hoffa Prosecutor Named To Aid Cox on Watergate

James Neal of Nashville Chosen to Study Data on Inquiry and to Make Report—White House Says Nixon Won't Testify

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WASHINGTON, May 29—James F. Neal, an experienced prosecutor from Nashville, has joined the staff of the special Federal prosecutor in the Watergate case.

According to informed sources, Mr. Neal has been assigned to master all the information that Government investigators have gathered up to now and to report to the special prosecutor, Archibald Cox.

Mr. Neal was chief of the Government team that successfully prosecuted James R. Hoffa, former president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, for jury tampering in 1964.

In another development today, the White House said that President Nixon would not testify, either orally or in writing, to either the grand jury or the Senate committee investigating the Watergate case.

Mr. Cox said that Mr. Neal's appointment would be "for as long as I can convince him to stay. The present arrangement is that he will work for two weeks, or longer if he can."

Mr. Cox was believed to hope that Mr. Neal, who is now in private practice in Nashville, would become so interested in the Watergate case that he would decide to stay on it indefinitely.

But Mr. Neal said in Nashville last night, before he left for Washington to meet with Mr. Cox, that his law practice was overloaded with work and that he was reluctant to leave it to take a long-term job here.

The official statement issued at the Justice Department today said that Mr. Neal would "be working with the team of Earl J. Silbert, Donald E. Camp-

Continued on Page 18, Column 3

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

bell and Seymour Glanzer of the U.S. Attorney's office."

Relations between Mr. Cox and the three Assistant United States Attorneys have been strained since Mr. Cox became special prosecutor last week.

The three, who have handled the Watergate case since the burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters last June 17, were prepared to resign last week, according to their superior, Harold H. Titus Jr., the United States Attorney here.

Mr. Cox persuaded Mr. Silbert, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Glanzer to continue on the case until he could familiarize himself with it, but he made no promises about whether they could remain on the case after that.

There was speculation here that one of Mr. Neal's functions would be to review the work of the three men and to advise Mr. Cox on whether they should be retained.

Mr. Neal is the third lawyer to join Mr. Cox's staff. Last week, it was announced that two Harvard Law School professors, James Vorenberg and Philip E. Heymann, would become assistants to Mr. Cox.

Mr. Vorenberg and Mr. Hey-



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James F. Neal

tion of Hoffa, gaining a reputation as a relentless and incorruptible investigator.

Mr. Neal was then appointed United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee, a position he held until 1966 when he left the Government to enter private law practice. He is now the senior partner in the firm of Neal and Harwell.

He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wyoming and law degrees from Vanderbilt and Georgetown Universities.

In another development today, Judge John J. Sirica of the Federal District Court here issued an order granting limited immunity from prosecution to Roy M. Sheppard, thus compelling Mr. Sheppard's testimony before the Senate committee investigating the Watergate case.

Mr. Sheppard is a deliveryman who allegedly was hired to haul away eight cartons of documents from the White House immediately after the Watergate break-in. It has not been disclosed who hired him or to whom he delivered the documents.

The order signed by Judge Sirica prohibits prosecution of Mr. Sheppard that is based on his testimony before the committee.

mann, as well as Mr. Neal, were sworn into office today.

Mr. Vorenberg and Mr. Heymann have little experience as prosecutors, and it was reported that they would serve Mr. Cox as administrative assistants, rather than as investigators or courtroom prosecutors.

Mr. Neal, who is 43 years old, was a special assistant to Robert F. Kennedy, former Attorney General, from 1961 to 1964. It was in that capacity that he conducted the prosecu-