

Senators Expect New Prosecutor

Washington

Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee said yesterday that they expect Elliot L. Richardson to appoint a special prosecutor in the Watergate case before Richardson's nomination by President Nixon as Attorney General comes up for confirmation.

Among the senators expressing that view were Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia and Philip A. Hart of Michigan. Aides to some other Democratic committee members said that their senators agreed with the assessment.

Senator John V. Tunney (Dem-Calif.) said that he would try to block committee approval of the nomination unless Richardson agreed in advance to name such a prosecutor.

The committee is planning to begin hearings on Richardson's confirmation next Wednesday.

AUTHORITY

Mr. Nixon said Monday night that he has given Richardson authority to appoint an independent prosecutor if Richardson thought such action was appropriate.

One committee member, Marlow W. Cook (Rep-Ky.), said he had "serious questions" about Richardson's nomination regardless of whether he chose someone else to supervise the Watergate investigation.

Cook said that he did not understand why the same considerations that led Richard G. Kleindienst to resign as attorney general did not apply to Richardson. Kleindienst has said his close association with administration officials who had been implicated in the Watergate affair prompted his resignation.

On Tuesday, the Senate approved by voice vote a

resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that a special prosecutor should be named.

CONSIDERATION

The Washington Post reported last night that a Philadelphia lawyer and close friend of Richardson is under consideration as the government's special prosecutor in the Watergate scandal.

The lawyer, William T. Coleman Jr., 52, refused to comment on the report.

FBI agents, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer, began a background check on Coleman Tuesday, interviewing his friends and associates in the routine prescribed for high administration appointments.

Coleman is the president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

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