

Senators Want Action

Demand for Watergate 'Culprits'

Washington

Senator Edward Gurney (Rep-Fla.) called yesterday for quick action to "run the culprits to ground" in the Watergate case, saying a governmental crisis is at hand.

He said handing the investigation over to an outside prosecutor would delay matters too long. Instead, he said, Attorney General

designate Elliot L. Richardson should retain control but name an outside investigator to help him.

"What we need now is action," Gurney said. "We have a governmental crisis at hand in this country. The Presidency of the United States is indeed sort of adrift, like a ship with its sails torn by a storm and without a rudder."

VIEW

He said the crisis won't be eased "in the eyes of the people or of the world until we uncover all of the so-called Watergate mess, run the culprits to ground, indict them and prosecute them."

Senator John Tunney (Dem-Calif.), appearing with Gurney on the CBS "Face the Nation" television program, said Richardson

was obligated to President Nixon for four high government jobs in the past four years and couldn't convince the public he could impartially investigate challenges to the integrity of the President and his top aides.

Both senators criticized as "highly improper" the White House approach to U.S. District Judge Matthew Byrne about becoming FBI director. Byrne is presiding over Daniel Ellsberg's Pentagon Papers trial in Los Angeles.

AIDE

Tunney defended Byrne as a "man of consummate integrity" and said Byrne had been assured at the time he accepted an invitation from White House aide John Ehrlichman to see President Nixon that the subject had nothing to do with the Ellsberg trial.

Asked if Ehrlichman's overture to Byrne had been proper, Tunney replied, "I don't think so."

Gurney said "I don't think so either . . . it was most improper."

Both men are members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Gurney also is on the special Watergate investigating committee.

Both said they hoped Mr. Nixon wasn't implicated in Watergate.

Associated Press