

A Pledge on Watergate

Evidence

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Washington

Acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork said yesterday that he and the White House have agreed there should be "regularized procedures" for turning over to Watergate investigators evidence held in White House files.

Bork, holding his first news conference as chief of the Justice Department, indicated strongly that he hopes the voluntary turn over of evidence would make further litigation — such as the suit to get the Watergate tapes — unnecessary.

Despite repeated questioning, Bork would not say specifically that he would go to court to get the information in the White House files. But he said several times that he would take any steps needed to get the evidence.

"We will go wherever we need to go to get the evidence for this prosecution," Bork said.

The former Yale law pro-

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fessor who rose suddenly to Justice Department chief over the weekend emphasized that he believes his own name is on the line in the investigation to come.

"I am not going to walk out of this town as a man who compromised the investigations," he said.

Bork also said he is considering appointment of a special prosecutor as one of several "mechanisms" for assuring public confidence in the investigation. The idea of a special prosecutor, he said, "has crossed my mind," but he emphasized he has not made up his mind.

Bork's news conference was a stormy one, as reporters raised questions about the ability of the Justice Department to pursue and in-

vestigate crimes allegedly committed by former White House aides and of campaign contributions involving President Nixon's closest friends.

Bork, sweating profusely, seemed anxious to assure a full investigation without making any statements that could be interpreted as criticism of Mr. Nixon or the White House.

EVENTS

Relatively unknown as solicitor general until last weekend's dramatic events, Bork was the man who fired Archibald Cox, the special prosecutor, on Mr. Nixon's instructions after both former Attorney General Elliot

L. Richardson and former Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus refused to do so and resigned.

Explaining the firing yesterday, Bork said he had at first thought of obeying the President's order and then resigning but was dissuaded by Richardson and Ruckelshaus. He said he felt that if he left there would be "mass resignations" at the Justice Department.

He said he fired Cox, although respecting his judgment, because he knew that someone would have to and that the President's decision was "final and irrevocable." "I also knew that he had the right to fire any member of the Executive Branch," Bork said.

Bork was peppered with questions dealing with evidence for the Watergate and related cases.

Cox was fired, in part, because he would not accept a proposal under which he would be barred from pursuing legal efforts to obtain documents, papers and notes held in the White House.

PAPERS

Cox said at a press conference Saturday that the papers of many former White



UPI Telephoto

ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL BORK
He may name special prosecutor

EVIDENCE PLEDGE

House aides — among them H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman — are in the files. His efforts to get them and logs of presidential meetings were met by "repeated frustrations," Cox said.

Bork acknowledged yesterday that he had a general agreement with the White House for turning over evidence without resorting to subpoenas.

Bork also said he wouldn't be interested in becoming Attorney General permanently.

"The job has lost a great deal of attractiveness to me in the last 72 hours," Bork said.

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