

Saxbe Is Confirmed as

Washington

The Senate yesterday unanimously confirmed outgoing Attorney General William B. Saxbe as the new U.S. ambassador to India.

The vote, taken as senators hurried to prepare for congressional adjournment today, came only four hours after the Senate Foreign Relations Committee completed public hearings on Saxbe's nomination.

A White House spokesman

said Saxbe will remain attorney general until he is formally sworn in as ambassador to India.

At that point, he said, Deputy Attorney General Laurence Silberman will become acting attorney general provided no new attorney general has been nominated and confirmed.

President Ford has not nominated a replacement

for Saxbe at the Justice Department.

White House sources have said the leading contender for the job is Edward Levi, president of the University of Chicago.

Saxbe, who represented Ohio as a Republican senator from 1968 to 1973, was nominated by Mr. Ford last week to replace Daniel Moynihan in New Delhi.

Ambassador

"I hope to establish a friendly relationship with mutual respect between our two countries," Saxbe told the Foreign Relations Committee. "I just think that has to be done.

"As Secretary of State (Henry) Kissinger said recently, we are on the threshold of establishing a more mature relationship, one where we won't expect too much from each other and

then be disappointed."

Former colleagues paid Saxbe glowing tributes before voting his confirmation.

Senator Robert C. Byrd (Dem.-W. Va.), noting that he had opposed Saxbe's nomination as attorney general, said: "I give my wholehearted support to his appointment as our ambassador to India."

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