

Pleas to Let

Justice

N7X AD

Dept. Alone

Washington

John N. Mitchell's two predecessors as attorneys general said yesterday that despite Watergate, the Justice Department should remain under the executive branch of government.

"To remove from that branch its major law office, because a band of outlaws once seized it, is to deprive executive government of a major opportunity to do its duty," Ramsey Clark said.

"It is desirable to hold the president of the United States responsible, as an elected officer, for the conduct of the business of the executive branch," added Nicholas Katzenbach.

Clark and Katzenbach appeared before a Senate judiciary subcommittee on separation of powers. The group is headed by Senator Sam Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.) who has introduced a bill to make the Justice Department independent.

Also testifying was Charles E. Goodell, former Republican senator from New York.

He endorsed a bill by Senator Alan Cranston (Dem-Calif.), which would establish an "independent permanent prosecutor" — free from the political interests of the president and having "the final word on prosecutions."

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