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GOVERNORS WANT  
NEW PROSECUTOR

Democrats, Meeting in Ohio,  
Say an Outsider Is Needed  
to Get at Watergate Truth

By SETH S. KING

Special to The New York Times

HURON, Ohio, April 30.—

The nation's Democratic Governors joined today in the call for appointment of a special prosecutor in the Watergate case.

Gov. Marvin Mandel of Maryland, current chairman of the National Governors Conference, said that Elliot L. Richardson, nominated today to be Attorney General, was only a "designated pinch-hitter."

Meeting here in special caucus prior to the June 3 meeting of the National Governors Conference, the 31 Democratic Governors or their representatives voted unanimously for a "position paper" demanding the appointment of the special prosecutor.

They urged President Nixon to make a full disclosure of all the facts in the case as quickly as possible. They suggested that the American people would not be convinced that the truth had been told unless there was a special prosecutor, recommended by some nonpartisan group such as the American Bar Association, and appointed by the President.

Declaring that all public officials, regardless of their party, were hurt by the suspicions raised by the Watergate affair, Governor Mandel said that a bold step would have to be taken to restore public confidence in government. Only the appointment of an uninvolved special prosecutor of known stature would accomplish this, he said.

"The appointment of Mr. Richardson is only shifting an Administration man from one job to another, a sideways step at best," he declared.

The caucus had been organized before the Watergate scandal broke open. It was called by Gov. Dale Bumpers of Arkansas to give the 31 Democratic Governors a forum in which to discuss action to be taken at the national conference at Lake Tahoe on June 3. But the Watergate matter dominated today's meeting.

The 15 Governors who actually made it to the Sawmill Creek Lodge, on the shores of Lake Erie, and the 16 representatives of those absent, rejected a suggestion by Democratic National Chairman Robert Strauss that they take part in a \$75,000 television campaign attacking the Nixon Administration over the Watergate matter.

Confidence Is Stressed

We felt that such a campaign at this time was neither appropriate nor advisable," Governor Bumpers said. "Our feeling is that this most vital matter is to regain the people's confidence in their government. We are not being partisan in this. We are all hurt by it. The sooner there is a full disclosure of what happened, the sooner the White House can get along with the larger problems that confront us."

But in any meeting of this nature, politics is an overriding theme, and the Governors expressed their pleasure at Mr. Strauss's announcement that he was appointing Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia to head the Democrats' 1974 campaign committee.

There has been a residual resentment among many Governor over the predominance of Senators in Democratic national politics last year.

"The Governors are much closer to the grass roots of their people and their party," Governor Bumpers said. "And we are always the ones called upon to raise the money. So we thought it was very good to have a Governor as the campaign committee chairman for next year."

Before this morning's Watergate development completely eclipsed the meeting, the Democratic Governors adopted a resolution urging the President to impose controls that would stabilize rent, prices, wages, profits and interest rates. The resolution did not mention a rollback to earlier levels, and Governor Bumpers said that none had been discussed.

"America is suffering from a gross and callous mismanagement of its economy," the resolution declared. "No platitudes, no budget book gimmicks can any longer hide from the people the multitude of injuries they are now suffering. Three months ago, the President announced that he intended to hold inflation to 3 per cent this year. The fact is that the annual rate of inflation during the first quarter of 1973 was 6 per cent—more than double the rates of the last quarter of 1972."

Bar President Comments

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 30—

Robert W. Meserve, the president of the American Bar Association, called today for a special prosecutor in the Watergate case.

Mr. Meserve said the appointment of a special counsel "of recognized professional stature and integrity would do much to clear the air and to reassure the country that the facts will be brought out and those involved dealt with fully and fairly."