

SENATORS EXPECT NEW PROSECUTOR

MAY 3 1973

Democrats on Judiciary Unit
Think Richardson Will Pick
Special Watergate Chief

NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 2—Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee said today that they expected Elliot L. Richardson to appoint a special prosecutor in the Watergate case before Mr. Richardson's nomination as Attorney General came before the committee.

Among the Senators expressing that view were Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia and Philip A. Hart of Michigan. Aides to some other Democratic committee members said that those Senators agreed with the assessment.

Hearing Date Set

Senator John V. Tunney, Democrat of California, said that he would try to block committee approval of the nomination unless Mr. Richardson agreed in advance to name such a prosecutor.

The committee is planning to begin hearings on Mr. Richardson's confirmation next Wednesday.

President Nixon said Monday night that he had given Mr. Richardson authority to appoint an independent prosecutor if Mr. Richardson thought such action was appropriate.

Other Senators on the committee were not willing today to commit themselves to support Senator Tunney's move. But most of the members from both parties said that they could support the nomination if a special prosecutor were

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Senators Expect Naming of Prosecutor

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named.

The Senators noted that Mr. Richardson had already received Senate confirmation three times in the last four years — for Assistant Secretary of State, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Secretary of Defense.

But one committee member — Marlow W. Cook, Republican of Kentucky — said that he had "serious questions" about Mr. Richardson's nomination regardless of whether he chose someone else to supervise the Watergate investigation.

Mr. Cook said that he did not understand why the same considerations that had led Richard G. Kleindienst to resign as Attorney General did not apply to Mr. Richardson. Mr. Kleindienst said that his close association with Administration officials who had been implicated in the Watergate affair necessitated his resignation.

Senator Tunney used the same argument in demanding an independent investigator. "Mr. Richardson is certainly a close friend of John Ehrlichman's," Mr. Tunney declared.

Yesterday, the Senate approved by voice vote a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that a special prosecutor should be named.

Two Republicans — Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska and Norris Cotton of New Hampshire — prevented the Senate from taking a recorded vote on the question today. A voice vote does not carry nearly the weight of a recorded vote on this type of resolution.

The White House was report-

ed to be furious at Senator Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illinois, the chief sponsor of the resolution. President Nixon was said to have told a Cabinet meeting yesterday that Mr. Percy, who is believed to have Presidential ambitions, would never be President "as long as I have anything to say about it."

Senator Percy would not comment today on the report, although he said he had talked with "one individual" at the White House and "could sense that the President did not like the resolution."

Elsewhere on Capitol Hill, the Senate's special committee that is investigating the Watergate case met and according to he chairman, Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, "reaffirmed its determination to start hearings as near the 15th of May as possible."

Committee investigators are planning to interrogate such high former White House officials as John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman this week, and the committee decided today to allow committee members to sit in on the interviews.

Buckley Defends President

In another development, Senator James L. Buckley, Conservative-Republican of New York, defended President Nixon's handling of the Watergate affair and denounced the "vultures circling — hope against hope to find the corpse of the Presidency."

Mr. Buckley said that he was referring to commentators and cartoonists who stated or im-

plied that Mr. Nixon was not being candid about his personal lack of knowledge of the Watergate break-in.

"Nothing is more plausible to me," Senator Buckley said, "than that a man will not have total knowledge of the activities of those to whom he has delegated responsibility."

Richardson-Colson Link

WASHINGTON, May 2 (AP) — Mr. Richardson is a personal friend of one of the figures in the Watergate case, Charles W. Colson.

Mr. Colson, through his secretary, said today that the two have been friends since about 1956. Both worked for former Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Republican of Massachusetts, at different times during the middle and late nineteen-fifties.

Repeated attempts to question Mr. Richardson on the matter turned aside today by his spokesmen.

A Pentagon spokesman said that Mr. Richardson was "really not going to have any comment on anything until he goes before his confirmation hearings." He continued, "It is a matter of record, of course, that Mr. Colson worked for Senator Saltonstall as did Secretary Richardson."