

Richardson's Watergate Talk With Senators

Promise of Special Prosecutor

Washington

Attorney General-designate Elliot L. Richardson promised Republican Senators yesterday that he will name an independent prosecutor in the Watergate case "in the next day or two," Senate sources said.

Richardson was reported to have asked senators about naming of such a prosecutor and they were unanimous in saying one should be appointed, the sources said.

Richardson in turn promised he would name one before the start of his May 9 confirmation hearings, the sources said.

Richardson's choice was not learned. Speculation centered on Philadelphia lawyer William T. Coleman, 52, a former member of the now-defunct Price Commission.

Coleman, reached at his office in Philadelphia, declined to comment on whether he had been asked to take on the task.

COOPERATION

Earlier, Senator Birch Bayh, (Dem-Ind.), a member of the Judiciary Committee which must pass on Richardson's nomination, said he believed approval

should hinge on Richardson's cooperation with the Senate Watergate investigating committee.

"The nomination should be made contingent on all members of the committee getting access to the FBI Watergate files," Bayh said. "The worst thing that could happen," he said, "is the appearance that not all the relevant information is coming out."

In another development,

arising out of the conduct of the President's recent obstructed . . ."

Stevenson and the others said a special prosecutor should be given full subpoena power; authority to seek grants of immunity for special witnesses and funds adequate enough to hire attorneys and investigators "answerable only to himself."

Earlier this week, Senator

Senator Adlai E. Stevenson (Dem-Ill.) circulated a letter for signature by all senators telling Richardson the qualifications and powers a special prosecutor would be expected to possess.

POWER

The letter called for a "relentless" investigation and the appointment of a prosecutor of highest ability with powers broad enough to investigate "all illegal conduct

Charles H. Percy (Rep-Ill.) won Senate consent for a resolution proposing that President Nixon name a special Watergate prosecutor immediately.

The Percy action became controversial because only five senators were on the floor when it was approved and other senators later called it a "slap in the face" to the President.

Associated Press