

Priority on Watergate Case

Washington

Watergate will be the Senate's first order of business today as Republicans press a resolution urging appointment of an independent prosecutor to take charge of the government's Watergate investigation.

The resolution, introduced by Senator Edward W. Brooke (Rep-Mass.) and backed by Senate GOP leader Hugh Scott, asks Attorney General-designate Elliot L. Richardson to name a "special assistant" outside the Government and that his choice be subject to Senate approval.

MEASURE

The measure specifies that the assistant would be responsible for "any and all criminal investigations, indictments, and actions arising from any illegal activity" connected with the Watergate affair.

The resolution is similar to one introduced by Senator Charles Percy (Rep-Ill.) and passed by the Senate last week on a voice vote with only five members present.

Saying the Percy proposal

had been passed "hastily," Brooke promised "full debate" on his resolution.

A similar measure was introduced in the House by Representative John N. Erlenborn (Rep.-Ill.).

Meanwhile, Richardson was expected to appear before a Senate appropriations subcommittee in his present role as Defense Secretary to testify on a supplemental financing bill. Part of the money is sought to continue U.S. bombing in Cambodia.

BILL

The supplemental bill is scheduled to reach the house floor Thursday and critics plan to offer an amendment that would deny the Defense

Department authority to use the money for more air raids.

Representative Joseph P. Addabbo (Dem-N.Y.) and others seeking to block the approval of some \$430 million in "transfer authority" have called it a "congressional blank check" for continuing the Indochina war.

The vote will be the first full legislative test this year in either house for funds to carry on U.S. military actions in Indochina.

House Democrats scheduled a closed-door caucus Wednesday to urge approval of the proposed Addabbo amendment.

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