

Special Prober to Have More Power

Washington

Attorney General - designate Elliot L. Richardson said yesterday the yet-to-be-named Watergate special prosecutor will have a free hand to investigate and prosecute anyone he thinks necessary.

Only under the most "extraordinary" circumstances would the special prosecutor be removed, Richardson said.

In setting out a job description for the special prosecutor, Richardson met the requirements suggested by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which must approve his nomination as attorney general.

INDICTMENTS

In a letter and statement to the committee, Richardson said the special prosecutor would have the power to frame indictments and decide "whether or not to prosecute any individual firm, corporation or group of individuals."

In investigating the Watergate scandal, Richardson said the special prosecutor would have the same measure of independence as the attorney general.

Richardson said the investigation should go as high in the government as is necessary.

The special prosecutor's authority, Richardson said,

Today It's McCord

Washington

The Senate Watergate committee scheduled a single witness for today's televised sessions — James W. McCord Jr., convicted of burglary and conspiracy in the break-in at Democratic national headquarters last June.

McCord's testimony is expected to take up all of today's hearing time and possibly some of next week's sessions.

United Press

"will extend beyond the Watergate case to include all offenses arising out of the 1972 presidential campaign and all allegations involving the President, members of his staff and other presidential appointees."

DELAY

Until now, Richardson had been unwilling to set out explicit guidelines on how much freedom and independence the special prosecutor would have. In recent days, members of the judiciary committee indicated they would delay his confirmation until he did just that.

In his letter to the committee and another to Senator

Adlai E. Stevenson III (Dem-Ill.), Richardson said the special prosecutor will be able to:

- Organize and select his own staff, which would report only to him.

- Have access to all relevant documents.

- Deal directly with the special Senate Watergate committee.

- Determine on his own whether to challenge any attempts of White House aides not to testify on grounds of executive privilege.

- Decide if anyone like ousted White House counsel John W. Dean III should be granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for his testimony.

- Control all Justice Department lawyers, including U.S. attorneys around the country, in their investigation of the Watergate scandal.

- Make his own decision about how much money will be required for the investigation.

Finally, Richardson said, "the special prosecutor will not be removed from his duties except for extraordinary improprieties on his part."

Associated Press