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# Lawyer Accepts Prosecutor's Job

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## Washington

Former solicitor general Archibald Cox, 61, agreed yesterday to serve as the Justice Department's special prosecutor in the Watergate scandal.

Attorney General designate Elliot L. Richardson told a press conference that he would name Cox to the proposed \$38,000-a-year post if the Senate approves Richardson's own nomination.

A Democrat, Cox was a member of the late John Kennedy's brain trust in the 1960 presidential campaign against then Vice President Nixon. He served as solicitor general, the third-ranking post in the Justice Department, from 1961 to 1965 when he rejoined the faculty at Harvard Law School.

At a news conference in Cambridge, Mass., Cox said any implication of President Nixon "would be reported."

"This is a task of tremendous importance," he said. "Somehow, we must restore confidence, honor and integrity in government."

Besides last June's break-in at Democratic national headquarters, the investigation will cover all offenses rising out of the 1972 presidential campaign and any other allegations involving President Nixon, his White House employees or appointees.

### INFLUENCE

Speaking at the Pentagon, Richardson, who is still secretary of defense, said he is confident that Cox's appointment would help counter any public suspicions that the White House might try to influence the investigation.

"There wasn't going to be any influence from the White House anyway," Richardson declared.

The Senate Judiciary Committee set a hearing for Monday to question both

men on how much of a free hand Cox will have.

Richardson said the former solicitor general found Richardson's proposed guidelines acceptable.

### CHANGE

Senate Democrats dissatisfied with the charter are still expected to press for a change in one key provision

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subordinating the prosecutor's independence to "the attorney general's statutory accountability for all matters falling within the Department of Justice."

Richardson indicated he has no intention of yielding on that point. But he did say he plans one major change in the guidelines, suggested by several senators, to exempt the prosecutor from any duty of keeping the attorney general informed of the progress of the investigation.

Cox's selection ended a sometime frantic search by Richardson that lasted more than two weeks.

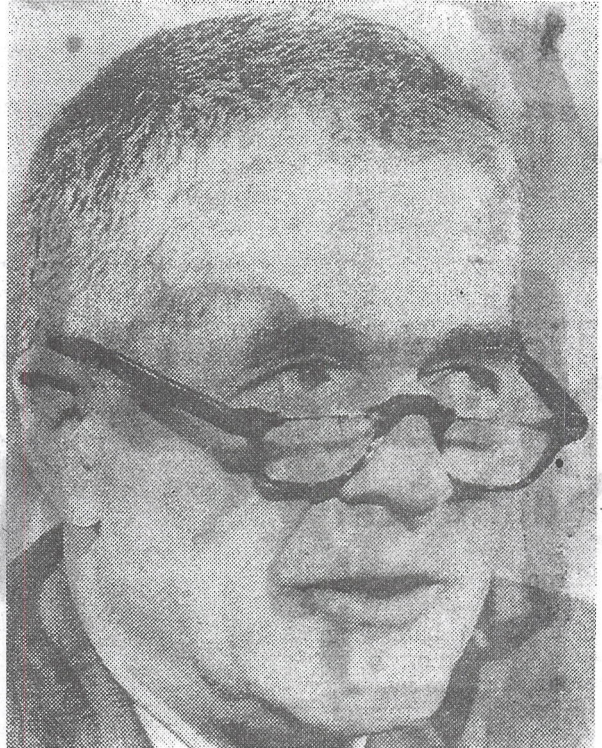
His first choice, Federal Judge Harold Tyler Jr. of New York City, turned down the job Monday, citing his reluctance to step down from the bench, particularly when the ground rules for the prosecutor's post had not yet been settled.

Another of the four "finalists" for the job, former Deputy Attorney General Warren Christopher, took himself out of the running Wednesday, saying that he saw no "reasonable probability" of securing "the requisite independence."

### REINFORCE

The withdrawals served to reinforce doubts about the independence Richardson said the prosecutor would have. They also raised questions about Richardson's own prospects for Senate confirmation.

Richardson offered the job to Cox Wednesday evening



AP Wirephoto

ARCHIBALD COX  
'A task of tremendous importance'

in a phone call to Berkeley, where Cox was giving a University of California lecture.

An expert primarily in labor and constitutional law, Cox had been considered earlier and passed over, Richardson said, because of a relative lack of experience in trial work and criminal prosecutions.

As a consequence, Richardson said, Cox's chief deputy, to be named as soon as possible, will be "a lawyer with extensive experience in litigation."