

# Senate Confirms Richardson

Washington Post Service

## Washington

The Senate voted 82 to 3 yesterday to confirm Elliott L. Richardson as attorney general on the strength of his pledges to conduct a

thorough investigation of the Watergate scandal.

The nomination was rushed to the floor yesterday afternoon with the reluctant assent of Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee

who had wanted a fresh face at the Justice Department.

Richardson, 52, is expected to be sworn in tomorrow, probably at some distance from the White House to underscore the "arm's length"

relationship he has promised to maintain in the investigations now under way.

His selection of former Solicitor General Archibald Cox as special Watergate

See Back Page

### From Page 1

prosecutor — under an independent charter hammered out during two weeks' of hearings — carried the day.

The only votes against Richardson on the Senate floor came from senators Joseph R. Biden (Dem.-Del.), Mike Gravel (Dem.-Alaska) and Harold Hughes (Dem.-Iowa), but the apprehensions ran deeper.

### 'SHUFFLED'

Senate Majority Whip Robert C. Byrd (Dem.-W. Va.) protested that Richardson, who had been sworn in as secretary of defense only three months ago, had been "shuffled from pillar to post of every new crisis" confronting the Nixon administration.

But he said he and a key Democratic bloc on the Judiciary Committee had "reluctantly" decided to support the appointment in light of Cox' reputation and the written guidelines aimed at insulating his investigations from administration influence.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to recommend confirmation, but only after more than an hour of what Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott called "expert nitpicking" over Richardson's testimony.

Byrd said there was "considerable discussion" over what he and other committee Democrats regarded as troubling inconsistencies in Richardson's account of contacts since April 30 with President Nixon and several former White House aides.

### DELAY

Those senators had toyed with the idea of holding out

### More Watergate news on Pages 10-13.

for more hearings, but decided in the end that more delay would simply put the Democrats in the embarrassing position of seeming to hold up the government's Watergate investigations.

A Massachusetts Democrat and professor at Harvard Law School, Cox, 61, cannot be named to the \$38,000-a-year prosecutor's post until Richardson is sworn in. Richardson has said that Cox' appointment will be his "first official act."

Urging Richardson's confirmation, Senator Roman Hruska (Rep.-Neb.), the Judiciary Committee's ranking Republican member, told the Senate that eight to ten grand juries across the country and half a dozen congressional committees are already investigating alleged misdeeds involving the White House and the administration.

"The clock is running whether we like it or not," Hruska said.

### FACES

Scott maintained that Democratic demands for "new faces" had been fully resolved by Cox' selection. Of Richardson, the Senate minority leader said, "a good face, a good mind, and a good heart is sometimes better than a new face."

Richardson's appointment had been thrown into jeopardy first by his insistence on "final authority" over the Watergate investigation and then when two early candidates for the prosecutor's post rejected the job with expressions of varying de-

grees of dissatisfaction with the guidelines Richardson offered them.

He regained momentum last Friday when Cox agreed to take the job under a strengthened charter which, Cox said, left Richardson with nothing more than authority "to give me hell if I don't do the job."

### STAFF

Under the guidelines, Cox will be able to hire his own staff, determine whether to keep even Richardson informed of his work, and make whatever public statements he considers appropriate. Richardson will be able to fire him only for "extraordinary improprieties."

Reassured by those steps, the Judiciary Committee was poised to support Richardson's confirmation Tuesday until charges raised by Daniel Ellsberg in a series of phone calls to several Democratic senators prompted them to reopen the hearings.

Focusing his complaints on a May 1 meeting between Richardson and former White House aide Egil Krogh, Ellsberg maintained that the attorney general-designate had encouraged Krogh to cover up the full extent of CIA involvement in a 1971 burglary at the offices of Ellsberg's California psychiatrist.

Richardson, called back to the witness table for close interrogation Tuesday, protested that he had advised Krogh, who subsequently said he directed the burglary by Watergate conspirators E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy, to "make a clean breast of everything" without violating national security directives of the President.