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# Richardson, Cox Take Their Offices

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In an elaborate ceremony at the White House, Elliot L. Richardson took the oath of office as Attorney General yesterday with a pledge to be fair and fearless in the administration of justice.

He followed up hours later at the Justice Department by officially designating former Solicitor General Archibald Cox as special prosecutor in the Watergate scandal.

President Nixon, in introducing Richardson before several hundred guests in the East Room, made no reference to the crisis which prompted Richardson's move to the Justice Department after little more than three months as Secretary of Defense.

But at the end of the ceremony, the President invited guests into the State Dining Room for coffee with the quip that the new Attorney General would be happy to see "those who do not have any matters pending before the courts at the moment."

His remark brought laughter and applause.

With Mr. Nixon standing beside him, Richardson said that while the "institutions of government are under stress, the structure . . . is sound."

"If there are flaws," the new Attorney General said, "they are in ourselves. The

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Associated Press

President Nixon congratulates Richardson after swearing-in.

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tions of government are under stress, the structure . . . is sound."

Cox told a far smaller audience at his swearing-in ceremony that he hoped to carry out his work with "candor, honor, sensibility, dedication to justice and unswerving rectitude without a taint, I hope of self-righteousness.

"Those are the qualities which the office I've been called to require," Cox said. "Those are the qualities we need to restore to all parts of the government."

The two ceremonies were full of contrasts.

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, one of Mr. Nixon's appointees to the high court, administered the oath to Richardson. Besides the President and Mrs. Nixon, Vice President and Mrs. Agnew, former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and former Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird were among those present.

Cox, a lanky Harvard University law school professor with longstanding ties to the Kennedy family, was sworn in at the solicitor general's office in the Justice Department by senior circuit

Judge Charles Fahy of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals here. An old FDR appointee, Fahy was solicitor general from 1941 to 1945; Cox served as his assistant for two years.

Ethel Kennedy, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), Kennedy aide James Flug and Samuel Dash, once Cox' student at Harvard and now chief counsel to the Senate select Watergate investigating committee, joined Richardson and his aides in applauding Cox's brief remarks.

Wearing a red-striped four-in-hand that he borrowed from his brother, Louis, the new special prosecutor, who has only bow ties in his wardrobe, said he was satisfied that "I have been given all the powers and independence any man could wish to perform the task that's been given to me."

Mr. Nixon, who flew off for a weekend in Florida before Cox took his oath, made no mention of the special prosecutor at the White House ceremonies. Calling Richardson "a man of character," the President predicted that he would be "one of the finest men" ever to head the Justice Department.

Mr. Nixon also remarked that while his career and

Richardson's were similar in some respects, the new Attorney General has been able to do what he never could: carry Massachusetts twice.

Richardson is a former Republican lieutenant governor and former attorney general of Massachusetts. Mr. Nixon lost the state in presidential races in 1960, 1968 and 1972.

After taking his oath, Richardson said the first concern in the administration of justice is the individual and the second is truth.

"The first demands fairness," he said, "and the second demands fearlessness." He promised to do his "utmost to be faithful to both."

As special Watergate prosecutor, Cox, 61, who served as solicitor general under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, will have temporary offices in the Justice Department until other quarters can be found.

Answering a brief round of questions from newsmen, he said he asked local Watergate prosecutor Earl Silbert and his colleagues to stay on the job "for the present," but made no commitments beyond that.



United Press International

Judge Charles Fahy, left, swears in Archibald Cox as Watergate prosecutor as Attorney General Richardson looks on.