

Key Aide for Watergate Probe Staff

Washington

James F. Neal, an experienced prosecutor from Nashville, has joined the staff of the special federal prosecutor in the Watergate case.

According to informed sources, Neal has been assigned to muster all the information that government investigators have gathered up to now and to report to the special prosecutor, Archibald Cox.

Neal was chief of the government team that successfully prosecuted James R. Hoffa, former president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Union, for jury-tampering in 1964.

Cox said that Neal's appointment would be "for as long as I can convince him to stay. The present arrangement is that he will work for two weeks, or longer if he can."

'TEAM'

The official statement issued at the Justice Department said that Neal would "be working with the team of Earl J. Silbert, Donald E. Campbell and Seymour Glanzer of the U.S. attorney's office."

Relations between Cox and the three assistant U.S. attorneys have been strained since Cox became special prosecutor last week.

The three, who have handled the Watergate case since the burglary of the Democratic National Committee headquarters last June, were prepared to resign last week, according to their superior, Harold H. Titus Jr., the U.S. attorney here.

Cox persuaded Silbert, Campbell and Glanzer to continue on the case until he could familiarize himself with it, but he made no promises about whether they could remain on the case after that.

There was speculation here that one of Neal's functions would be to review the work of the three men and

to advise Cox on whether they should be retained.

OTHERS

Neal is the third lawyer to join Cox's staff. Last week it was announced that two Harvard Law School professors, James Vorenberg and Philip E. Heymann, would become assistants to Cox.

Vorenberg and Heymann, as well as Neal, were sworn into office yesterday.

Vorenberg and Heymann have little experience as prosecutors, and it was reported that they would serve Cox as administrative assistants, rather than as investigators or courtroom prosecutors.

Neal, 43, was a special assistant to former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy from 1961 to 1964. It was in that capacity that he conducted the prosecution of Hoffa, gaining a reputation as a relentless and incorruptible investigator.

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