

# 3 Original Watergate Probers Quit

Washington

The three original Watergate prosecutors withdrew from the case yesterday, maintaining that their investigation had been "conducted forthrightly, vigorously and professionally."

The three men — assistant U.S. Attorneys Earl J. Silbert, Seymour Glanzer and Donald E. Campbell — had offered to resign from the case when the special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, took office last month. Cox asked them to stay on for a while to assist him.

Yesterday, in a letter to Cox, they said that "the transition now, in our view, is basically complete."

They went on to say that they believe it is time for them to withdraw because they might be called as witnesses before the Senate Watergate committee or, perhaps, even the grand jury.

## LETTER

Cox, in accepting their resignations, wrote the men that "there are points on which my judgment might have varied from yours."

But he added that "Thus far in the investigation, none of us has seen anything to show that you did not pursue your professional duties according to your honest judgment and in complete good faith."

The day-to-day investigation of the Watergate affair and coordination with the

Back Page Col. 1

## 3 PROSECUTORS RESIGN

### From Page 1

grand jury is now being handled by one of Cox' chief assistants, James F. Neal.

The three prosecutors said they will return to the Justice Department and will continue to serve as assistant U.S. attorneys.

They have been the subject of considerable criticism for not having found earlier that high officials of President Nixon's administration and his re-election committee were involved in planning the Watergate burglary and subsequently trying to cover up the facts.

### SEVEN

The seven men who were originally indicted and convicted in the case were, if testimony before the Senate

committee is accurate, relatively minor figures in the over-all case.

The prosecutors took some that more details had emerged after the trial last January.

Because none of the seven who were indicted would turn state's evidence, the prosecutors said at a news conference, they had developed a strategy of first convicting them and then granting them immunity from further prosecution in order to compel their testimony.

### VIEW

"The initial grand jury investigation was conducted under inherent conflicting pressures to have the most thorough and exhaustive investigation in the shortest possible time," the three prosecutors wrote to Cox.

"Moreover, as the evidence now shows, many gov-who, unbeknownst to us, had critical evidence, either withheld it or made false statements to the grand jury and the prosecutors, thus, whether innocently or not, aiding and abetting the cover-up."

During the trial last January, the three prosecutors were repeatedly prodded by John J. Sirica, chief judge of the U.S. district court here, to bring out more detail and background.

But yesterday they insisted time and again that they had touched every possible base in their initial investigation, and that they answered some of the criticism that has been brought against them.

New York Times