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New men on the staff of special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox include (from left) Richard J. Davis, Wil-

liam H. Merrill, Henry S. Ruth and Harry M. Bratt. The appointments bring the number of lawyers on Cox' staff to 34.

Cox Names 'Plumbers' Prober

By Susanna McBee

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Special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox has appointed William H. Merrill, 50, a corporate lawyer from Detroit, to head the prosecution's task force investigating the White House "plumbers."

The "plumbers" were a group of men hired in 1971 to del with security leaks, including that of the Pentagon Papers by Daniel Ellsberg. Their burglary of the office of Ellsberg's former psychiatrist, Dr. Lewis Fielding, led to the dismissal of the government's case against Ellsberg.

Cox said Merrill will look into other allegations of illegal or improper activities by the plumbers and charges of "improper use of government agencies by the White House." Agencies implicated include the Justice Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Merrill is replacing Philip B. Heymann, who will continue as a special assistant

to Cox this summer before returning in the fall to Harvard University, where he is a law professor.

Before going into corporation law, Merrill was chief assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, where he tried cases dealing with mail fraud, organized crime, labor racketeering and tax evasion.

Cox also has appointed Richard J. Davis, 27, who has been an assistant U.S. attorney in New York since 1970, to head the prosecution task force on "dirty tricks," or political espionage, during last year's campaign.

His investigation will focus largely on the activities of Donald H. Segretti, the Southern California lawyer accused of trying to disrupt Democratic primary campaigns.

Richard Ben-Veniste, 30, was named an assistant special prosecutor to serve as the principal aide to James F. Neal, who heads the task force probing the main Watergate case and its subsequent cover-up.

For the last year Ben-Veniste has been chief of the official corruption section of the U.S. attorney's office in the Southern District of New York. He has prosecuted cases of organized crime, labor racketeering and official corruption.

Harry M. Bratt, 45, was appointed chief of the information system section of Cox' prosecution force, and is to build a system of analysis and retrieval of reports and interviews to serve all the task forces. He has been director of the research grant and contract program of the National Institute of Law Enforcement.

As of Monday Cox' staff will include 34 lawyers. Three of its task forces—Watergate, "plumbers" and campaign contributions, headed by Thomas F. McBride—have five lawyers each. Davis' "dirty tricks" task force has one, and a fifth task force looking into

the alleged involvement of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. with the Republican National Convention has two attorneys. Acting chief of the ITT task force is Joseph J. Connolly.

Cox asked Congress Thursday for a \$2.8 million appropriation and a total of 90 positions.