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Washington

Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson asked Congress yesterday for legislation that would allow the Watergate grand jury to remain in session for as long as 12 more months.

By law, the term of the grand jury expires December 5, 18 months after it was impaneled.

Richardson s a i d the extraordinary developments of the Watergate investigation require extending the term of the present jury.

The investigation is being directed by special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox who technically falls under the Justice Department's jurisdiction.

The proposed legislation would allow U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica to grant a six-month extension if he decides that the business of the grand jury has not been completed by December 4. He could authorize a second six-month extension in July.

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