

Eager to Act

Cox's Staff Waits to See If It Still Exists

Washington

The Watergate special prosecution force, with its leader Archibald Cox dismissed Saturday by Presidential edict, plans to continue its investigation, a spokesman said yesterday.

James Doyle, special assistant for public affairs, said at a news conference that although the 81-member staff had been told that it would be "folded into" the Justice Department, much as you fold egg into a cake, it had received no formal notification of its future course.

He said that at a staff meeting late Saturday night, Henry S. Ruth Jr., deputy special prosecutor, "asked if anyone would not be in Tuesday. Nobody raised hands."

"Very serious criminal prosecution is under way," Doyle added. "The mood of the staff is to continue."

He reported that agents

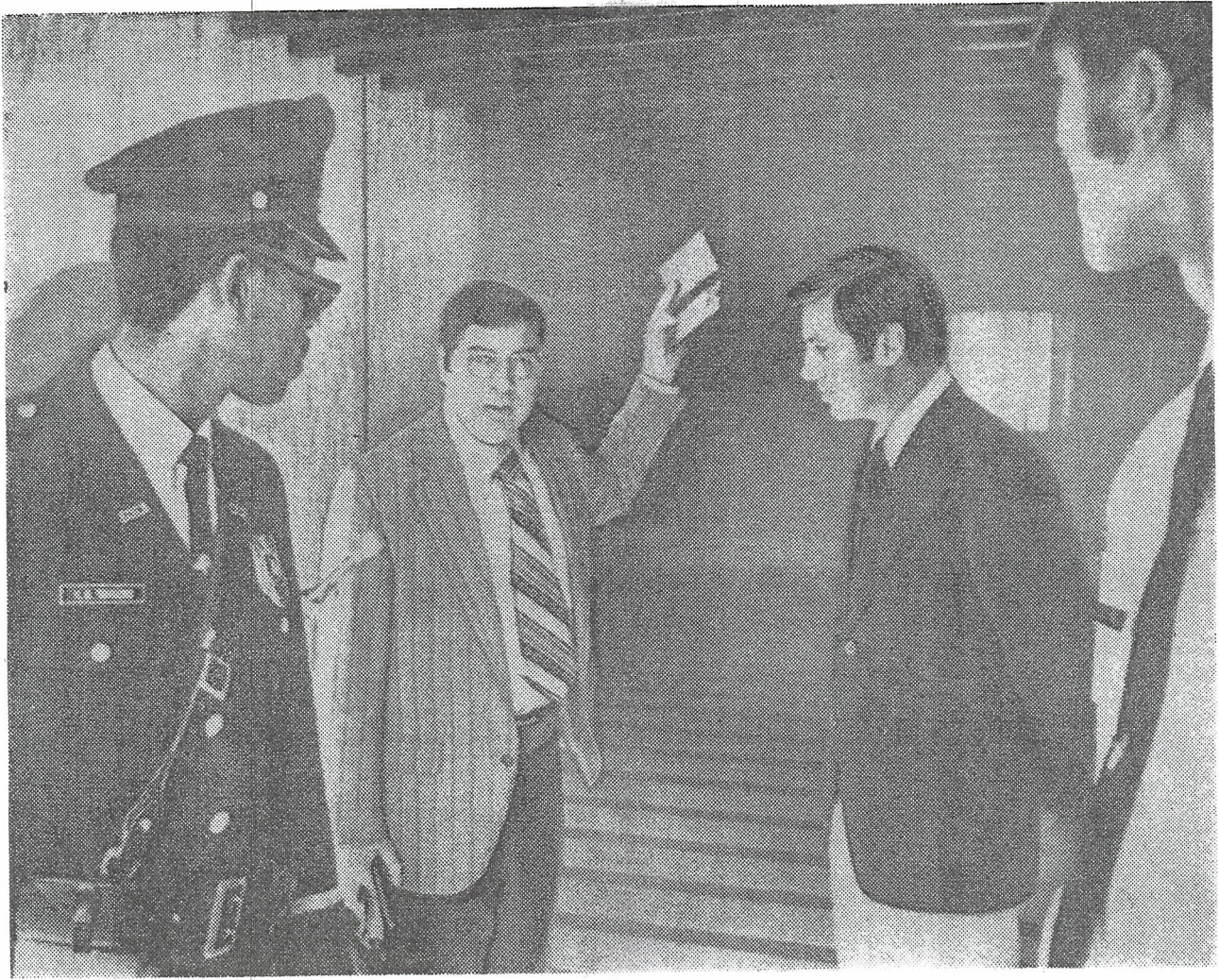
who were guarding the special prosecutor's offices had been replaced by U.S. marshals. The marshals are insisting that no papers relating to the investigation can be taken out of the offices in Downtown Washington, he added.

Doyle said he did not know how that might affect the presentation of evidence to the two grand juries looking into the Watergate scandals.

More meetings are expected this week. The staff plans to meet again today at its offices and tomorrow with acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork.

Mr. Nixon, in a letter to Bork Saturday, wrote that he was to "take all steps necessary to return to the Department of Justice the functions now being performed by the Watergate special prosecution force."

Doyle was asked how the



AP Wirephoto

James Doyle, press aide for Archibald Cox, convinced security police and an FBI agent that reporters should be allowed in the press room of the building where Cox's staff works. This discussion took place in the lobby.

office could continue to work if it had been abolished.

He replied by saying, "if they announce the sky is green and you look up and the sky is blue..." Then he paused and added: "I assume to abolish our agency

takes some time."

One staff member said: "Everyone wants to keep an open mind. We all want to go (to the meeting tomorrow with Bork) to listen to what he has to say."

The same staff member,

who asked not to be identified, said most would be willing to go on with the investigation if it is "meaningful" and "effective."

To meet such definitions, he said, the prosecutors must be able to get all the

necessary evidence, a trail that leads back to the disputed presidential tape recordings. Cox was dismissed after refusing to go along with Mr. Nixon's offer of a summary of the tapes.

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