Many Departures Tied to Watergate

By Martin Weil Washington Post Staff Writer

The three top Justice Department officials who resigned or were fired Saturday are the latest in a series of persons whose departures from government have been linked with Watergate, the Ellsberg case or related matters.

In Saturday's actions, President Nixon discharged Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox and accepted the resignations of Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruckelshaus.

In earlier actions:

Dwight L. Chapin resigned Feb. 28 as presidential appointments secretary. He was said to have been a White House contact for convicted political saboteur Donald Segretti.

Jeb Stuart Magruder resigned April 26 as director of policy development in the Commerce Department. A former deputy director of the Committee for the Reelection of the President, Magruder has pleaded guilty to one count of obstruction of justice for his role in the Watergate coverup.

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L. Patrick Gray III resigned Apr. 27 as acting FBI director after it was reported that he had destroyed Watergate-related documents given him by presidential aides.

John W. Dean III was fired April 30 as White House Counsel. He has testified he helped supervise the effort to hide White House involvement in the Watergate matter. Dean pleaded guilty to one count of obstruction of justice last week.

Richard G. Kleindienst resigned April 30 as Attorney General, citing close personal ties to persons who had been linked to the Watergate case.

H. R. Haldeman resigned April 30 as the President's chief of staff. Dean has accused him of involvement in the cover-up of the Watergate case. He has denied the charges.

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John D. Ehrlichman resigned April 30 as the President's chief domestic adviser. He was indicted on burglary, perjury and conspiracy charges last month in connection with the burglary of the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Ehrlichman has denied the charges.

David R. Young a former assistant for national security affairs who later joined the domestic council staff resigned April 30. He was indicted on burglary and conspiracy charges in the Ellsberg burglary. He has pleaded not guilty.

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Gordon C. Strachan a former Haldeman deputy resigned April 30 as general counsel of the U.S. Information Agency. He has been described as Haldeman's link to the re-election committee.

Robert C. Odle Jr. former director of administration for the re-election committee was fired May 7 from his post as a management counselor in the Agriculture Department. He was named by the General Accounting Office as one of several persons who handled campaign funds that were said to be unrecorded.

Egil Krogh Jr. resigned May 9 as undersecretary of Transportation. He was indicted in the Ellsberg burglary on charges of burglary conspiracy and solicitation to burglary. He has pleaded not guilty.

John J. Caulfield resigned May 24 as assistant director for criminal enforcement in the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. He has said that he offered executive clemency to one of the convicted Watergate burglars on instructions of John Dean.

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