

GOP Leaders Call For a New Prober

Senators' Plea to Nixon

Washington

The Senate's top Republican leaders, who had stood beside President Nixon during the long Watergate crisis, yesterday urged him to restore public confidence in the investigation by naming a new special prosecutor and by speedily pursuing the case.

The new prosecutor would replace Archibald Cox, whose dismissal Saturday touched off a massive public reaction.

The Republican leaders also urged that in the meantime, Henry E. Petersen, assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division, who has been named to head the Watergate investigation, bring indictments as soon as possible to assure the public that the investigation has not stopped.

If Mr. Nixon does not appoint a special prosecutor, the Republican leaders said, then one should be appointed by Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the U.S. District Court.

CALL

Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Senate Republican leader, telephoned the message yesterday morning to Bryce N. Harlow, counselor to the President, according to Scott's press secretary.

The call was placed after a meeting in Scott's office that included Senator Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, the Republican whip; Senator John G. Tower of Texas, the policy committee chairman,

and Senator Wallace F. Bennett of Utah, secretary of the Republican conference. Senator Norris Cotton of New Hampshire, chairman of the Republican conference, agreed by telephone.

The senators were clearly upset over the flood of mail and telegrams protesting the removal of Cox and the resignations of Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William D. Ruchelshaus.

They were also troubled by the President's failure to consult with them over the move, aides said.

"As a Philadelphia lawyer," Scott remarked, "I would not have given him the kind of advice he received and apparently accepted. He is left without an option for appeal."

One spokesman for the Republican leaders said, "The mood is such that the American people must be reassured that justice is working and that a special prosecutor must be appointed."

Shortly after the meeting and the White House telephone call, Scott and 13 other members of the Senate Judiciary Committee met in closed session and unanimously recommended that a special prosecutor be appointed.

However, the committee

resisted a move by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem.-Mass.) to call for reinstating Cox, and a second move by Kennedy to have Cox testify at once before the committee.

Instead, testimony was scheduled for Monday morning at the request of Senator Roman L. Hruska (Rep.-Neb.).

Richardson and Ruchelshaus are expected to follow Cox before the committee.

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