

Senate Demos Call for Independent Prosecutor

Washington

Senate Democrats, heading for a showdown with President Nixon, endorsed legislation yesterday to establish a new special Watergate prosecutor independent of both the White House and Congress.

During a 2½-hour caucus, the Democrats took no action on a suggestion by their leader, Mike Mansfield, that the life of the Senate Watergate Committee be extended and its investigation be expanded to cover the full scope of the inquiry that Archibald Cox was conducting when the President had him fired ten days ago.

The Democrats adopted a resolution instructing Mansfield to consult with Republican leader Hugh Scott on the possibility of bipartisan support for creation of a totally independent prosecutor by law.

Mr. Nixon announced last Friday that a new prosecutor would be appointed this week by acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork. But legislation cosponsored by more than half the Sen-

Alioto Dinner

Los Angeles

More than 1000 members of Southern California labor groups attended a \$25-a-plate dinner here last night to honor San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto in his bid for the democratic gubernatorial nomination.

Associated Press

ate would provide for a prosecutor outside the executive branch who would be beyond the President's reach.

"We favor entrusting the investigation and prosecution of criminal actions arising out of the Watergate affair and all of its related activities to a prosecutor who shall be independent of the executive and legislative branches of the government," said the resolution, sponsored by Senator Sam J. Ervin (Dem - N.C.).

Mansfield said later he did not press his suggestion to

broaden the scope of the Watergate committee because it was a matter for the committee to consider.

Ervin agreed, and urged appointment of an independent prosecutor.

Mansfield's comments came just hours after the Watergate committee, met privately and voted unanimously to continue its court fight to obtain five of President Nixon's secret tapes bearing on the scandal.

Ervin said the committee will push for swift enactment of legislation bestowing jurisdiction on the U.S. district court in Washington to enforce subpoenas brought by congressional committees against the president. Ervin said such a bill will be submitted no later than today and "could pass within 48 hours" of introduction.

The Ervin committee sued Mr. Nixon last summer when he refused to comply with its subpoena for five of his tape-recorded conversations with fired White House counsel John W. Dean III about the bugging scandal.

But chief U.S. District

Judge John J. Sirica dismissed the suit, saying only an act of Congress could empower him to hear the case.

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