

Hearings on Saxbe May Be Delayed

Washington

Confirmation hearings on the attorney general-designate, Senator William B. Saxbe (Rep-Ohio) are expected to be delayed next week while the Senate Judiciary Committee hears testimony on bills to set up an independent special prosecutor in the Watergate scandal.

Although Republicans argued that precedent called for sweeping aside the committee's agenda and voting on a fellow member of the Senate with no hearings, Democrats who control Congress were in no mood to take this action.

Saxbe was nominated to be attorney general by President Nixon Thursday.

MANSFIELD

The Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, said that the committee should not interrupt its study of special-prosecutor bills that he favors to hurry along the confirmation of Saxbe.

He also said he thought hearings should be held.

The major bill, by Democratic Senators Philip A. Hart of Michigan and Birch Bayh of Indiana, would have the court appoint the special prosecutor. There are 55 co-signers.

The bill was drafted to put the appointment in the hands of Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the U.S. district court who handled the original Watergate trial and publicly stated that the full story had not been presented to a jury.

Bayh has said he would accept amendments, calling for an immediate appeal to the Supreme Court to test its constitutionality and calling for a three-judge panel to select the prosecutor rather than Sirica alone.

SCOTT

The Republican leader Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, disagreed.

"It's customary to stop what you're doing and consider the appointment of a senator. Normally hearings are not held," Scott said.

Senator James O. Eastland (Dem-Miss.), who is the committee chairman, was in his home state and not available for comment. His staff said only that the hearings on the bills were scheduled for next week.

JAWORSKI

When Mr. Nixon announced Saxbe's nomination he also announced that acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork had appointed a respected Houston lawyer, Leon Jaworski, to succeed Archibald Cox, who was dismissed by Mr. Nixon October 20 when he pressed hard to obtain presidential documents.

Jaworski is expected to be in Washington Monday afternoon for his first meeting with the staff of 80 that Cox assembled to look into the Watergate scandal and related matters.

Although President Nixon had ordered the staff to be taken into the Justice Department, that move never amounted to more than briefings with top Justice Department officials.

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