

HOUSE UNIT VOTES PROSECUTOR BILL

Measure Calls for Court to
Appoint Watergate Aide

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12 (UPI)—A House Judiciary subcommittee, on a 5 to 4 party line vote, approved today legislation to create a court-appointed special Watergate prosecutor. The full committee takes up the measure tomorrow.

The measure, sponsored by Democrats who are disturbed by President Nixon's dismissal of Archibald Cox, the former Watergate special prosecutor, would provide that three judges of the United States District Court in Washington name a prosecutor for a three-year term and have the sole power to discharge him.

The full Senate Judiciary Committee hopes to complete action on the bill by Wednesday, since it opens hearings Thursday on the nomination of Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan as Vice President. Approval is expected, with the full House scheduled to vote on the measure Nov. 26.

The Judiciary panel meets tomorrow for final action on a bill that would empower the chief judge of the United States District Court to name a prosecutor independent of the executive branch. That committee appears evenly divided on the issue, and a tie vote would kill the legislation.

Further Delay Possible

Republicans are opposed to the House version of the bill because of fears it might be unconstitutional and subsequent court tests could further delay prosecution of anyone indicted by the Watergate grand jury.

To allay those fears, the subcommittee added language to provide for speedy appeal of any indictments to a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia or to the Supreme Court. The appeal would have to be filed within 15 days of the indictment.

Final subcommittee approval of the bill it wrote in two days came after an identical vote against a substitute offered by Representative David W. Dennis, Republican of Indiana.