



AP Wirephoto

ARLEN SPECTER
Philadelphia DA

Report of New Man on Nixon Team

Philadelphia

Philadelphia District Attorney Arlen Specter will shortly join President Nixon's Watergate defense team and may be in line to head it, the Philadelphia Bulletin said yesterday.

The Bulletin quoted a

source in Washington as saying it was "logical and inevitable" that Specter will be named to lead the team of lawyers engaged in preparing Mr. Nixon's defense against accusations related to Watergate.

In Washington, deputy White House press secretary Gerald L. Warren said discussions have been held with Specter but insisted no decision has been made "one way or the other" as to whether he will join Mr. Nixon's legal team.

According to the newspaper, Specter, 43, has reportedly accepted the assignment.

The Bulletin said Specter declined comment on the report when reached at his family home in Wichita, Kan., Tuesday night.

A source close to Specter said that Specter "will remain as district attorney until the end of his term January 1."

Specter, a Republican who headed Mr. Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign in Pennsylvania, was defeated in a re-election bid November 6.

There have been reports of an impending shakeup in the White House defense team since last week, when Mr. Nixon spokesmen indicated the President was displeased with the performance of chief Watergate counsel J. Fred Buzhardt.

Associated Press