

Ervin Says Justice Agency Should Be Independent Unit

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (AP)—Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. introduced a bill today to make the Justice Department an independent branch of the Government.

The North Carolina Democrat, who heads both the Senate Watergate committee, and the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Separation of Powers, said the latter group would hold hearings on the legislation next year.

"Watergate and other events over the past months have called into question the function of the Department of Justice, and have brought forth allegations that the Department of Justice has been used for political purposes by the White House," Mr. Ervin said in a statement.

Under the Ervin bill the Attorney General would be appointed by the President for a six-year term but would not be a member of the Cabinet.