

Senate Unit OKs Saxbe

Washington

The Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday approved President Nixon's nomination of Senator William B. Saxbe (Rep - Ohio) to be attorney general.

The vote was 15 to 1. Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem - N.C.), who contends Saxbe is constitutionally ineligible for appointment, cast the only no vote.

No vote was taken on a proposal to request written assurances from President Nixon with respect to the independence of special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

But Senator Philip A. Hart (Dem - Mich.) said GOP leader Hugh Scott will seek clarification from the Presi-

dent "as to what he believes to be the independence and the jurisdiction of the special prosecutor."

Hart and Senator Edward M. Kennedy were seeking a direct pledge from Mr. Nixon that he will not interfere with or attempt to limit the range of the Watergate investigation or fire Jaworski for anything other than "gross improprieties."

Scott told newsmen later that he will "seek some clarification either from the White House or Mr. Jaworski."

He called the dispute a "tempest in a teapot."

Scott said he is convinced there is no limitation on Jaworski and said of the Hart-Kennedy demand, "I sup-

pose now they want God Almighty to send down a thunderbolt and say there isn't."

The Senate is to act on the Saxbe nomination on Monday.

The issue arose as members questioned Acting Attorney General Robert H. Bork about the commitments Mr. Nixon voiced to him and about an amendment Bork attached to the prosecutor's charter.

Bork said he sees no reason Mr. Nixon could not repeat his promises to the committee but neither does he consider it necessary.

Bork said the President has given him personal assurances that he will honor the prosecutor's independ-

ence. The pledge was made with the understanding that Bork would make it public and thus the promise was made "to the American people," Bork said.

Bork said Mr. Nixon promised that "he never intends" to interfere or attempt to restrict the investigation.

"He is saying that should there ever arise an extraordinary situation in which it became necessary to issue an order, he really wouldn't issue the order unless he could get the consensus of six of the eight congressional leaders," Bork testified.

Bork later added a section requiring the same consensus before the prosecutor's jurisdiction could be limited.

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