

RICHARDSON SEES

WATERGATE BENEFIT

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(AP)—Former United States Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson said today "there is much that is positive and encouraging" in the recent months of the Watergate investigation.

Mr. Richardson, who resigned last Oct. 20 in protest when President Nixon ordered him to dismiss the special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, told a Harvard University audience his speech could be entitled "Watergate in Midstream—It's Not All Polluted."

Mr. Cox, who introduced Mr. Richardson, said it was the first time they had met since last Oct. 20.

The former Attorney General cited the major effects of Watergate as the following:

¶ Greater independence of law enforcement agencies and prosecutors.

¶ Insulation of Government business from improper influence.

¶ Greater campaign reform efforts.

¶ A new interest on the part of President Nixon in preventing serious abuses of the right to privacy.

¶ New vigilance against concentration of governmental power.

Mr. Richardson also said he had "all but closed the door on running for Governor of Massachusetts."