

Richardson Talks About Impeaching

By George Murphy

Former Attorney General Elliot Richardson said here yesterday he believes the delivery of a secret grand jury report on President Nixon to a House committee "will move the impeachment process forward."

Richardson, who resigned on "Bloody Saturday" after Mr. Nixon fired Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox, was in San Francisco for an address to the American Bankers Association Installment Credit Conference.

He told a press conference he believes President Nixon's resignation at this time is "very unlikely."

But that likelihood would increase, he said, should the House vote a bill of impeachment, and the Senate, while not registering the necessary two-thirds, have "more than a majority" vote to convict Mr. Nixon.

Richardson said he feels the White House should accede to the request of the House Judiciary Committee, which is conducting the impeachment investigation, and turn over to it the additional 42 tapes of conversations the committee says it needs to complete its probe.

Richardson, who has been traveling about the country lecturing on government and is also writing a book, said that in his travels he has found a "deteriorating atmosphere toward the President."

"This country, I believe, has a great capacity for resilience. The people are tired of Watergate, and would like to put it behind them.

"But they don't want it dealt with in a summary fashion.

Richardson said that the outlook for Republican candidates for Congress in next November's elections "is bleak, at present.

"Between now and November, they should separate themselves from Watergate—something with which they had no connection.

"After all, some of the Republican candidates have never even served in Washington."