

How Saxbe Thinks Nixon Did Wrong

Washington

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said yesterday that President Nixon either was ignorant of grand jury operations or had a "casual" attitude about enforcement of laws in connection with the Justice Department investigation of Watergate.

Saxbe, appearing on public television's weekly series, "Washington Straight Talk," said Mr. Nixon was "wrong" in discussing with his top aides, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, matters before the Watergate grand jury.

Mr. Nixon had been informed of the matters by Henry Petersen, the assistant attorney general who in the spring of 1973 was in charge of the Justice Department investigation of Watergate.

Petersen conferred with Mr. Nixon after Attorney General Richard Kleindienst removed himself from the Watergate case because of his personal relationships with some of those involved.

Saxbe said the President apparently talked about grand jury matters "with Mr. Haldeman and Mr. Ehrlichman, or whoever came in the office" after promising Petersen their discussions would be private.

La Jolla Death

San Diego

Rachette Morris, a 17-year-old Arizona girl, drowned off La Jolla's Blacks Beach Sunday.

United Press

"Does this, you think, reflect a kind of casual attitude toward seeing that the laws are enforced on the part of the President?" he was asked.

"Either that of a lack of knowledge about a grand jury proceeding," Saxbe replied.

Saxbe said, "I don't know whether he (Mr. Nixon) lied to him or not. All I know is that after the discussions, there were further discussions within that room on matters that Mr. Petersen had brought in about what was happening before the

grand jury.

"And this was wrong."

In other matters during the half-hour interview, Saxbe said:

- He was disappointed that his predecessor, Elliot L. Richardson, resigned when ordered to fire Archibald Cox as special prosecutor. Saxbe said Richardson should have stood up to Nixon and said, "Mr. Cox stays."

- The wiretaps of 13 government officials and four newsmen that is causing the controversy involving Secretary of State Henry Kissinger would not be approved by him if requested today. "The standard that I employ is that the activity must first be controlled, directed, paid for by a foreign power. It must be a genuine national security, not something that we would guess might be."

United Press