

Ruth Eyed By Saxbe For Post

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 16, (AP)—Attorney General William B. Saxbe said today that deputy Watergate Special Prosecutor Henry S. Ruth Jr. is the leading contender for the nomination to replace Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

The Attorney General said he will decide early next week on his recommendation for a successor to Jaworski, who has submitted his resignation effective Oct. 25 after nearly a year in charge of the Watergate prosecution force.

In response to questions at a news conference, Saxbe said he couldn't say whether others are being considered for the nomination, because he has not yet given it his full attention. He said he probably will confer with President Ford on the choice early next week. The post is filled by presidential appointment.

Saxbe also said he agrees with Mr. Ford's decision to reject Boston officials' request for federal troops to maintain order during school desegregation disturbances.

"The keeping of the peace is a local responsibility. It always has been," Saxbe said.

He said he would oppose sending federal troops to Boston until "they have fully deployed the National Guard and they have declared the situation out of control."

He declined to say whether he believes Mr. Ford's recent statement disagreeing with the Boston school busing order inflamed the potential for violence. "I'm not going to get involved in that hassle," Saxbe said.

Saxbe was attending a conference of U.S. attorneys.