

House Panel Votes to Call Watergate Prosecutor

WASHINGTON, July 16 (UPI) —A House criminal justice subcommittee voted today to summon the special prosecutor, Henry S. Ruth Jr., for questioning in closed session about his Watergate investigation.

The subcommittee approved unanimously by voice vote a motion by Representative Elizabeth Holtzman, Democrat of Brooklyn, to call Mr. Ruth before Congress starts its August recess.

She said that he should be asked if he had conducted "a full, complete and thorough" investigation and also to disclose the nature of his final

report, which he said he would submit to Congress in August. His office terminates in September.

Miss Holtzman also wants to know the ultimate disposition of materials in the special prosecutor's office.

She told a reporter that the closed meeting with Mr. Ruth would not preclude the possibility of open hearings later on his performance.

She has expressed fear since the third and final Watergate grand jury was dismissed July 3 that Mr. Ruth would close up shop with "serious questions" still unanswered. She cited the

18½-minute gap in a White House tape and the extent of Richard M. Nixon's Watergate activities.

Representative Charles E. Wiggins, Republican of California, the ranking Republican, expressed fear that a Congressional investigation of the special prosecutor's office could be interpreted as "political pressure" to return indictments.

Miss Holtzman, disagreeing, said that she was seeking "some assurance that he [Mr. Ruth] had fully discharged his duty."

Meanwhile, Watergate prosecutors came out today against letting former Attorney Gen-

eral John N. Mitchell have a look at the recent grand jury testimony of Mr. Nixon.

But they said in a Federal court filing that they had no objection to United States District Judge John J. Sirica's examining the transcript if he believed that "would be productive."

Judge Sirica presided over the trial at which Mr. Mitchell and three other former Nixon aides were convicted of the Watergate cover-up. All are appealing, and Mr. Mitchell last week asked for access to the Nixon testimony, taken secretly at San Clemente, Calif., June 23-24.