

WXPost DEC 10 1975 FBI-II

Levi Setting Up 'Watchdog' Unit

By Margaret Gentry

Associated Press

Attorney General Edward H. Levi announced yesterday that he will appoint an internal Justice Department watchdog to oversee investigations of alleged misconduct by department employees, including FBI personnel.

Levi has signed an order creating the Office of Professional Responsibility and said he will appoint an individual to run it within two weeks.

By his action, Levi is carrying out promises made by two predecessors as much as two years ago.

Former Atty. Gen. Elliot L. Richardson first proposed appointing an inspector general in the Justice Department shortly before he was forced out of office during the Watergate case in October 1973.

The next attorney general, William B. Saxbe, issued an order establishing such an operation last January. But the order took effect about two weeks before Saxbe resigned and has not been put into practice until now.

Levi said he has decided to bring the office into being to insure that departmental employees continue to perform their duties in accord with the professional standards expected of the nation's prin-

cipal law enforcement agency."

Department spokesmen said the counsel on professional responsibility, soon after his appointment, will review the investigations now pending in the internal inspection units of five department agencies — the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Immigration and Naturalization Service and U.S. Marshals Service.

The counsel also will review any other investigations of alleged misconduct by department employees which may be pending in other department offices.

The department's criminal division still is investigating some aspects of alleged corruption in the DEA and the immigration service, and a federal grand jury in Richmond is investigating alleged wrongdoing by several FBI agents in a wiretap case.

Levi also said he will appoint an unspecified number of department officials to a Committee on Professional Responsibility to oversee the watchdog office.

Levi's order requires the office to make regular reports to him to evaluate the effectiveness of investigations conducted by other inspection units.

The order provides for the counsel to report to the solicitor general or the deputy attorney general if it would be inappropriate to report to the attorney general. Such might be the situation if the attorney general or his staff were under investigation.