

Nixon Stands Firm Against Jaworski

KEY BISCAVNE, Fla. (AP) — Demanding anew that Watergate investigations be swiftly ended, the White House drew a firm line Friday against special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski's "continued and seemingly unending incursions" into President Nixon's files.

Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler stressed that Nixon won't budge from his refusal to give Jaworski more Watergate tapes, but said the President doesn't want a confrontation with the prosecutor and doesn't intend to fire him.

Nixon's chief Watergate attorney, James D. St. Clair, said in a statement that Jaworski's request for 40 additional tapes plus documents could delay grand jury deliberations "many months."

Although Ziegler said St. Clair had not listened to the 40 tapes, the lawyer said in his statement that "a careful review of this request led me to the conclusion that this new material was at best only corroborative of or cumulative to evidence already before the grand jury and therefore was not essential to its deliberations."

"The President believes he has furnished sufficient evidence to determine whether probable cause exists that a crime has been committed and, if so, by whom," St. Clair said, adding:

"Under these circumstances the President determined that continued and seemingly unending incursions into the confidentiality of presidential communications was unwarranted..."

Jaworski, who reported the President's refusal in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday, has not said whether he now will seek to subpoena the White House tapes and documents. He declined comment Friday on the White House statement.

Indications were that some negotiations between the special prosecutor's office and the White House were continuing.

St. Clair said Nixon had told him to continue his private contacts with Jaworski and "to cooperate fully, consistent with the principles of confidentiality

of presidential conversations, with a view toward bringing this matter to a prompt and just conclusion."

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said the Judiciary committee is to meet Tuesday to vote on whether to call Jaworski to testify.

Some members have indicated they want to question him about the White House's refusal to hand over the material.

Byrd, a committee member, told newsmen he had talked by telephone with Chairman James O. Eastland, who is in Mississippi, and was advised a meeting would be held Tuesday to let the members vote.

Archibald Cox was fired by Nixon last Oct. 20 in a dispute over his effort to subpoena Watergate tapes Nixon later turned over to Jaworski, Cox's successor.

At a news briefing here, where the President is relaxing between a pair of speeches to Southern audiences, Ziegler avoided giving firm assurances that Jaworski would not be fired.

But afterwards he told a reporter that there was "no intention or contemplation whatsoever" of firing the prosecutor and that Nixon stands by a commitment that he would never discharge Jaworski without consulting Democratic and Republican congressional leaders.

Responding to another inquiry, Ziegler said Nixon was confident there are no new gaps in any of the White House tapes.

"To our knowledge, and I think we would know, there are no other gaps," Ziegler said.

In another Watergate development Friday, a federal judge said public discussion of whether former White House counsel John W. Dean III testified truthfully about the Watergate affair should be ended. He also chided Jaworski for appearing on a television talk show.

"The President in a letter to me has indicated his concern about pretrial publicity. I hope every effort will be made by appropriate authorities to stop discussing matters before this court," said U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell.