Nixon Still Faces Ford Jaworski Charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leon Jaworski and Richard M. Nixon, two men who know the loneliness of historic decision-making, are poised, once again, on the brink of confrontation.

For Jaworski, the time is near when he, alone, as special prosecutor, must decide whether the former president, driven from office by the Watergate scandal, stripped of his presidential immunity, should become a target of possible criminal prosecution.

Jaworski has given no hint of what his decision will be or when he will make it.

All questions about Nixon get the same response from a Jaworski spokesman:

"Our only comment is no comment."

The special prosecutor's office will not even say whether the matter has been discussed with the grand jury that named Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator on the Watergate cover-up while he was still president.

The House Judiciary Committee, in its final report on the impeachment proceedings that were made moot by Nixon's resignation, held that the former president had violated criminal laws.

There are public moves that feed the speculation.

When Jaworski joined the Watergate cover-up case defendants in asking U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica to delay the start of the trial, he argued that, in fairness, the former White House and Nixon campaign aides needed more time to examine tapes still being transcribed by the prosecutor's staff.

Jaworski aides wouldn't discuss speculation that the prosecutor might also be seeking time to consider possible action against Nixon.

"I wouldn't go beyond the reasons we included in our argument to the judge," said a spokesman.

Under prodding from the U.S. Court of Appeals, Sirica agreed to delay the trial until Sept. 30.

Speculation as to the timing of any Jaworski action on the Nixon matter is that nothing will occur until after a jury is chosen and locked up for the cover-up trial.

Whether Jaworski decides to ask a grand jury to consider charging Nixon with being involved in the Watergate coverup, the former president is certain to have his privacy disturbed by legal moves.