



Jaworski Found No

NEW YORK — (AP) — An inquiry into maritime union contributions to Gerald R. Ford's congressional campaigns in Michigan, conducted while Leon Jaworski was special Watergate prosecutor, turned up nothing that "called for further action," Jaworski said Monday.

"We found no connection with Watergate," Jaworski told reporters.

Jaworski's observation came amid reports the special prosecutor's office has begun a new inquiry into the handling of the unions' political contributions.

The special prosecutor recently subpoenaed records of two maritime unions and three GOP committees in Michigan, material Jaworski said he had examined himself while special prosecutor.

PRESIDENT FORD'S special counsel, Philip Buchen, complained earlier about the timing of the reported new inquiry, which comes a

little more than a month before the election.

Jaworski said he, too, was surprised by reports of the new investigation into allegations that contributions allegedly were diverted to Ford's personal use while Ford was a member of Congress. He stressed he isn't sure there is a new investigation.

Should there be new information, Jaworski said, "it seems to me there would be ample time after the election to deal with it unless there is something like the statute of limitations involved."

Buchen, special counsel to the President and his former law partner, said the records under study by the prosecutor "are the same ones which were examined thoroughly in 1973 by 350 agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

CHARLES RUFF, the Watergate special prosecutor, reportedly has subpoenaed records of the Seafarers



Leon Jaworski

... expresses surprise

International Union. Ruff is reportedly probing reports that campaign contributions from the union and

thing in Ford Probe

from the Maritime Engineers Beneficial Association were diverted to Ford's personal use — while he was a congressman — after passing through Republican committees in his home district.

Officials of the Maritime Engineers confirmed that their records had been subpoenaed, but Ruff has not confirmed that any subpoenas were issued.

Buchen said he is certain the President is not under investigation since "his campaign finances were carried on by people of integrity, and the accounts of those campaign committees were audited every year."

MEANWHILE, White House staff chief Richard Cheney, speaking to reporters Sunday night aboard Air Force One flying to Miami, said there are no plans to ask the special prosecutor whether the President is the target of the

investigation.

To ask the question "would assume the question needs to be asked. I don't think it does," he said.

Cheney added that nobody in the prosecutor's office has contacted the White House for information on the matter.

The prosecutor's office has not disclosed whether Ford, the unions or the Michigan GOP committees is the target of the investigation.

Records of the Kent County Republican Committee, its finance committee and the GOP organization in the Fifth Congressional District, where Ford was congressman for 25 years before becoming vice president in 1973, were subpoenaed. The records obtained go back to 1964.

Four former GOP finance chairmen were interviewed by the FBI Friday, and three said they were asked about the possibility that

money from two maritime unions was converted to cash and given to Ford.

IN ADDITION to the FBI probe three years ago, Ford's records also were checked by the staff of the House Judiciary Committee during confirmation hearings held before he became vice president.

Buchen said the committee's investigation included 100 formal interviews in addition to those done by the FBI, "examinations of the public and private documents of the then-congressman and independent audits of Ford's personal finances.

"All I know is that I participated in the examination, and I know how thoroughly the committee conducted its study of the President. There was an exhaustive review of all identifiable contributions to the nominee's various campaigns for the past 20 years."