

JAWORSKI URGES NIXON TO SPEAK UP

Ex-Watergate Prosecutor
Suggests 'Soul Searching'
Might Bring Out Truth

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CHICAGO, Feb. 22 — Leon Jaworski, the former Watergate special prosecutor, said today that he hoped that former President Richard M. Nixon would do some "soul-searching" about Watergate and then make a statement to the American people giving them the truth.

"I would hope that former President Nixon will do the same 'soul searching' that every person should who has had 'experiences as tragic,' Mr. Jaworski said, in a news conference here this afternoon.

"He ought to say what's in his heart," Mr. Jaworski said, when asked what the statement he hoped for should contain.

"He ought to say, above all things, the truth."

Mr. Jaworski also said, in an interview earlier, that Judge John J. Sirica had reflected "a feeling for what society demands" when he imposed prison terms yesterday on the four former officials in the Nixon Administration.

He said, however, that he did not expect the four men to serve the terms imposed — two and a half to eight years for former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, and John D. Ehrlichman, the former chief of adviser on domestic policy, and 10 months to three years for former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian.

Rehabilitation Stressed

He said that he considered Judge Sirica's sentences "appropriate." But, he said, if the convictions were sustained on appeal, the defendants would probably win motions for reductions of sentences that also would be appropriate, he said.

"The length of time is not the important thing," he said in the interview. "Rehabilita-

tion is."

Mr. Jaworski was in Chicago to speak at the midwinter business meeting of the American Bar Association. The Watergate affair has been an embarrassment and a concern to the legal profession because of the number of lawyers involved, from Mr. Nixon on down, and Mr. Jaworski took note of that in his speech. But he also said, in effect, that Watergate was not the only or even the main concern facing the profession.

Lawyers Urged To Do More

Instead, he accused large segments of the profession of "nonchalance" and "indiffer-

ence" toward maintaining law as a profession of honor. He said that both the law schools and the professional disciplinary machinery "could do more and should do more" to keep lawyers responsible.

"There will be failures and scandals involving members of the legal profession from time to time just as there are scandals among the members of other professions, regardless of the action that the legal profession takes to discipline itself," he said.

"What constitutes my overriding concern is the attitude of indifference exhibited to the preservation of the profession, as one of trust and honor not only by lawyers who have practiced at the bar for decades but as well by those who are entering the profession in current times."

Mr. Jaworski, a former president of the American Bar Association, said that there had been "considerable advancements" in many states in revising legal disciplinary procedures. But, he said, the advances were not enough.

"There remains a nonchalance among many members of the bar towards the sanctity of the bar's responsibilities," he said. "There exists an indifference among some law deans and professors I find somewhat disquieting. And then there confronts us that unmistakable attitude among some law students denoting a lack of interest in the time-tested traditional characteristics of the profession."

Fingerprinting Opposed

Mr. Jaworski gave as an example the "uproar of protest that greeted a recent proposal by the state bar of his home state, Texas, to require law school applicants to be fingerprinted.

"What does an individual of good moral character have to fear at such requirements?" he asked. He noted that Government agencies had long required the fingerprinting of applicants, and added:

"The greater the number of unworthy entrants in the profession, the greater will be the risk of disgrace the profession stands to suffer. This is plain."

For Watergate, Mr. Jaworski replied that fingerprinting would probably have done no good. But, he said, the less sensational "breach of trust" by a lawyer to his client was a major problem in the country, and that discipline in that area should be improved. He would have "no objection," he said, to "every single lawyer in the country being fingerprinted."