

Watergate "Ellsberg" Indictments of 3/7/74 Notes HW a.m. 3/7/74

These notes are made immediately after initial announcement of the expected indictments.

I draw an inference that may not be warranted and cannot be ignored, that the Office of the Special Prosecutor has pre-empted other jurisdictions, not without purpose.

Purpose: to inflate his own record of seeming achievement and to make it appear that he and his office have been diligent and uncompromising, pursuing all crimes and leads to their ultimate. Great man, great staff, great dedication.

The fact is that from what is not in the indictments of 3/1/74 the kindest inference is of investigatorial incompetence. Not by the FBI but of the staff of the office. Of the FBI there is no question of competence. There also is none of covering up. It is fact, going back to L. Patrick.

Properly and originally, these indictments were within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles United States Attorney and within the jurisdiction of the local prosecutor, who sought and got indictments and took evidence.

Unless charges not applicable in L.A. are included, this is no more than a public-relations transfer of jurisdiction. It builds the statistics, beginning with those dealing with investigations and indictments and proceeding through convictions.

It was so with Jake Jacobson, who could and should have been indicted in Texas. He lives and works there and indicting him elsewhere without compelling need handicaps his defense, builds up his cost and limits his capabilities.

It also was so with Segretti, where the original indictment was in Florida and not until after the Washington office of the U.S. Attorney, meaning the Department of Justice, ignored the Segretti operation. It was transferred to Washington, Segretti copped a plea, gave evidence, got a light sentence, and with no effort at all the Special Prosecutor built his statistics.

In all these cases the crimes were committed in jurisdictions other than Washington, where no new crime was committed and of those committed in the other jurisdictions only conspiracy seems to have been committed in D.C. But it also seems to have been a crime in the robbed jurisdictions.

The net result is that Jaworski has an entirely unearned reputation which he can and I believe probably will use to cover the deficiencies of his work as it relates to the more important White House felons and the Leading Felon of them all.

On them he has gone lightly to date and I predict will henceforth.