

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 3-30-64

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: LEON JAWORSKI
ATTORNEY
HOUSTON, TEXAS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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"The Washington Daily News" of 3-28-64, in a feature entitled "In The Offing," which is a "weekly size-up" of Washington news, reported that captioned individual, a long-time friend of President Johnson, may be the next Attorney General if President Johnson is re-elected and Attorney General Kennedy resigns as he has indicated he will do. This article reflects that Jaworski was a lawyer for the Texas Democrats in 1960 when Republicans tried to block certification of the states' electoral votes for the Kennedy-Johnson ticket and that Jaworski outmaneuvered the opposition.

The article also stated that Attorney General Kennedy picked Jaworski in 1962 to prosecute Governor Ross Barnett on criminal contempt of court charges as he wanted a lawyer outside of the Justice Department to handle this case. This case is still pending and the Supreme Court is due to rule on whether it should be heard by a jury. Jaworski has argued against this.

D.C. GEN

The Director has inquired, "What do our files show on Jaworski? H."

INFORMATION IN BUFILES:

LEON Summary

The current "Who's Who" reflects that Mr. Jaworski was born 9-19-05, Waco, Texas. He received an LL. B. degree from Baylor University in 1925, an LL. M. degree from George Washington University in 1926 and a Doctor of Laws degree from Baylor in 1960. He is married and has three children. He was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1925 and is a senior partner in the Houston law firm of Fulbright, Crooker, Freeman, Bates and Jaworski. He is a past president of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Texas Civil Judicial Council. Mr. Jaworski was a Colonel in the Judge Advocate General's Department, U. S. Army, during World War II and prosecuted war crimes trials in Germany. He resides at 3665 Ella Lee Lane, Houston. The Bureau has never investigated Jaworski and files contain no derogatory information concerning him. As a Captain in the Army in 1942, he addressed an FBI quarterly police conference in Texas and spoke highly of the FBI and the Director. (66-9340-45-189) As a Lieutenant Colonel in 1944, he was in contact with the Laboratory in connection with an examination of evidence in a case in which the Army was interested. (95-10107-10) Files reflect that Jaworski invited the Director to address groups in Texas in 1950 and 1960; however, both invitations were cordially declined. (94-54120)

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"The Washington Post and Times Herald" of 12-23-62, carried an article which reported that Attorney General Kennedy had appointed Jaworski, on 12-22-62, to 1 - Mr. DeLoach ELR:eab (6)

ELR *class* *CRIME RESEARCH*

M. A. Jones to DeLoach
Re: LEON JAWORSKI

handle the criminal contempt proceedings against Governor Ross R. Barnett and Lieutenant Governor Paul B. Johnson, Jr., of Mississippi. Mr. Kennedy noted that many Justice Department attorneys had been directly involved in the controversy of the admission of James Howard Meredith to the University of Mississippi and might be called as witnesses. Therefore, the Department had sought outside counsel and that Jaworski would have full charge of the prosecution of Barnett and Johnson on charges of wilfully attempting to block the admission of Meredith. (157-401-1829)

Jaworski made a favorable impression.
The Director met Leon Jaworski in his office on 12-6-63. Mr. Jaworski was accompanied by Texas State Attorney General Wagoner Carr. This was a "stand-up" meeting which lasted approximately 15 minutes. Carr expressed appreciation to the Director on this occasion for seeing him and Jaworski and Mr. Jaworski issued an invitation to the Director to speak at some time in the future before the Texas Bar Association, of which he was immediate past president. The Director indicated his appreciation for this invitation but stated it was most difficult for him to leave Washington particularly while Congress was in session. *

Jaworski and Carr were in Washington on this occasion to confer with officials regarding the inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy. Jaworski had been appointed by Wagoner Carr as the special counsel for the Texas State Fact Finding Court of Inquiry which had been planned to look into the assassination of President Kennedy. This Court of Inquiry was postponed indefinitely with the establishment of the Warren Commission.

Texas Attorney General Carr issued a press release on 12-6-63, after seeing the Director, in which it was reported that the Court of Inquiry had been postponed, that Leon Jaworski was to work with the Warren Commission and attend its meetings and that he and Jaworski had been in Washington for three days conferring with Federal officials including Mr. Hoover, Chief Justice Warren, and Deputy U. S. Attorney General Katzenbach. It is to be noted that the press release by Carr was prepared by the Department of Justice and was cleared by us prior to release.

Carr and Jaworski were deeply appreciative of the opportunity to meet the Director. Carr subsequently wrote Mr. Hoover on 12-12-63, thanking the Director for his courtesy in seeing them.

In connection with the Warren Commission hearings, it was reported to us by Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade, on 1-24-64, that Wade, Carr, Jaworski and others had appeared before the Commission on 1-23-64 for an informal discussion of a report that Lee Oswald had been an informant of the FBI or some other governmental agency. This report appeared in an article of "The Nation." There was no indication of what part Jaworski took in this discussion but he was apparently there in his role as special counsel to the Texas State Attorney General.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.