



Leon Jaworski and wife Jeanette: His book about his experience as Watergate prosecutor will be published

this fall. He says he came around to writing the book reluctantly after Nixon failed to bring out the facts.

# Gerald Ford and the Watergate Fallout

by Lloyd Shearer

WASHINGTON, D.C.

**W**hat effect, if any, will the Woodward-Bernstein books, *All the President's Men* and *The Final Days*, have upon the Presidential election this year?

What effect will the motion picture version of *President's Men*, starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman, have upon the American voter?

How many Republican and independent voters will tune out Gerald Ford because he was a member of the Nixon team?

Leon Jaworski, the Watergate special prosecutor, believes the motion picture and the spate of Watergate books will take a relatively small toll.

Jaworski's Watergate book, *The Right and the Power*, will be published by the Reader's Digest this fall.

"When I first left Washington,"

Jaworski says, "I was determined not to write a word about Watergate. I hoped all the facts would come out. I hoped Nixon himself would bring them out, make a clean breast to the American people. But he didn't.

"So gradually, as publisher after publisher pressured me, I finally succumbed to writing my own book, telling exactly what happened. I don't believe my book will have any effect on the political fortunes of President Ford except possibly to remind people that it was he who pardoned Nixon.

"There's a very small portion in my book in which I tell how Ford had his lawyer, Phil Buchen, call me and ask



John Dean and wife Maureen have both written Watergate books; his, yet to be released, got a \$325,000 advance.



The Magruders, Gail and Jeb, have also written Watergate books in an attempt to tell all and to earn a few dollars.

how long I thought it would take to bring Nixon to trial. Not long after I gave him my assessment, Ford pardoned Nixon. But that's all I have in it about Ford. Other books might have more."

One book which is certain to is *Blind Ambition*, the Watergate confessional of John Dean, Nixon's lawyer and the man who decided to tell all and not only bring down Nixon but the malevolent cabal of Mitchell, Haldeman, and Ehrlichman.

Dean, who received a \$325,000 advance from Simon & Schuster, publish-

ers of the Woodward-Bernstein books, is hard at work on his opus, assisted by Taylor Branch, a talented writer.

Fortunately for Ford and the Republican party, Dean's book will not be completed before the 1976 election.

Ford considers *The Final Days* by Woodward and Bernstein, who were assisted by researchers Scott Armstrong and Al Kamen, as "unfair and untimely" and says, "I just wish that sort of reporting did not exist.

"I saw former President Nixon a few times prior to the day that I became President," he continues, "and, of

or in the West Wing where I think I do.

"I don't think we have the kind of people that will indulge in what we've read in some of the most recent stories about Mr. Nixon."

### The record of Ford

In David Kennerly, President Ford has a personal White House photographer who is making the most complete daily photographic record of any Chief Executive in the history of the United States. Surely, Kennerly will find a writer to add words to his great photographs, and surely in the White House at this very moment there are half a dozen reporters or employees who are taking notes on the Presidency of Gerald R. Ford.

The President may be safe in assuming that no book written about him will resemble in tone or attitude those written about Richard Nixon, but inevitably books will appear about Ford, and they will inquire deeply into his conversations with Gen. Alexander Haig on Ford's options to pardon Richard Nixon even before Nixon had been convicted of any crime.

In a word, Gerald Ford is not yet home-free and clear. Chances are he never will be. The American Presidency has become open game for instant historians, and what they write is sure to have some effect on the American electorate.

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course, I saw him one of the last moments before I became President.

"I never saw any instance where he was in danger of his own life, nor did I see . . . any incident or any attitude when I thought he might do something that would endanger the country.

"I would hope," Ford adds, "that after I leave the White House there won't be any of these unfortunate revelations . . . either in the East Wing where Betty [Mrs. Ford] runs the show,