

# Fla. Sets Deadline In Watergate Case

Post 1/29/74

Associated Press

A Florida prosecutor said yesterday that the state would be forced to move on its own if federal indictments covering Florida Watergate developments are not returned by mid-March.

"We want some deadlines for action by the special federal Watergate prosecutor," said Murray Sams, a special prosecutor in the office of Dade County State Attorney Richard Gerstein.

Sams and Martin Dardis, chief investigator in the case, were in Washington for a meeting with Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski. Jaworski's office had no comment.

The Florida state attorney's office has been investigating a March 30, 1972, meeting in Key Biscayne at which former Attorney General John N. Mitchell was alleged to have approved the Watergate burglary.

Sams said the statute of limitations covering any criminal conspiracy in the case would prevent the state from filing

charges after two years have elapsed.

"We told Archibad Cox (former Watergate prosecutor) originally that we'd hold off until the first part of this year because we didn't want to be in conflict," said Sams. "But now we've got the statute of limitations to worry about."

Sams said the state probably would file no charges if federal indictments completely cover the matter his office is investigating. But, he said, "we'd have to take a look at that after the indictments were in."

Gerstein's office also is investigating the flow of Nixon campaign funds through Florida.