

# JAWORSKI DROPS ROLE IN 4 CASES

Cites Possible Bias Because  
of His Former Law Firm

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 — In four instances in the Watergate investigations, the special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, has withdrawn from personal involvement in cases because of possible conflicts of interest.

All involve connections to his old Houston law firm, Fulbright, Crooker & Jaworski. When Mr. Jaworski took over the Watergate investigations on Nov. 5, he cut all ties to the firm, which is one of the nation's largest.

In three of the cases from which Mr. Jaworski disqualified himself because of possible bias, the Houston firm represents those under investigation.

In the fourth, the connection is less direct. The law firm represents a client who is in a lawsuit with a possible Watergate defendant.

The fourth case involves a Houston-based farm group called the Marketing Assistance Plan, which is represented by Fulbright, Crooker & Jaworski.

Marketing Assistance has asked the Federal courts to stop a larger group, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., of San Antonio, from taking its members away.

Associated Milk Producers is under investigation by the special prosecutor for having made a pledge of \$2-million to President Nixon's re-election campaign in 1970, along with a request to limit imports of competing foreign milk products.

Associated is also being investigated for an alleged pledge of money related to a plea of raising milk support prices.

Mr. Doyle said the special prosecutor has recused himself from the dairy industry investigation until such time as the lawsuit between Marketing Assistance and Associated was settled.

"The biggest recusal is Milk," Mr. Doyle said. "If the civil case is disposed of, there is nothing to keep him from taking charge of the investigation."

In all four cases, the overall leadership of the investigations has been under Henry S. Ruth Jr., the deputy special prosecutor.

Mr. Doyle said there had been one other lawyer to withdraw from a case because of conflict of interest through prior association with a possible defendant. He said it involved one of the five top task force lawyers but declined to identify which man it was.

Presumably the Watergate special prosecution force is made up of 78 permanent employees, nine temporary and two consultants.

The work has been divided into five task forces looking into main aspects of the Watergate scandal.