

On Getting 'The Full Story'

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By Donnie Radcliffe

Reprinted from yesterday's late editions

Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski, at a party in his honor Monday night, respected the gag order on Watergate commentary, but took apparent exception to a published interview in which he was quoted as saying he had the "full story" on Watergate.

In a Feb. 26 interview in The New York Times, Jaworski was quoted as saying that his office knew the full story of the Watergate affair, a statement cited since then by President Nixon as evidence that the White House has cooperated with the prosecutor.

The interview preceded major indictments on March 1 in the alleged Watergate coverup.

"What I really said was I thought we knew the story of Watergate now—that we know what happened," Jaworski said Monday night. "I'm sure the President spoke in good faith — he meant he thought I had all I needed.

"But," Jaworski continued

with trial lawyer determination, "we don't have the full story. Under the law my obligation and our job is to investigate fully until everything is known and presented. I say it's my obligation to get everything I can and present it."

Jaworski's office won a request for additional White House materials late last week and last night he said that if he needed still more, "I'm going to ask for it.

"And if I don't get it, I'm going to subpoena."

He stood in a crowded living room at the Westmoreland Hills, Md., home of Everett Hutchinson, who heads the Washington branch of Jaworski's old Houston law firm.

Around him the cast was stellar: The federal judge who's kept the Watergate trials moving and members of Congress who may have to decide how the Watergate affair will end.

Jaworski's secret of survival — contrary to that of his predecessor Archibald Cox — is contingent on an agreement between him and the President, Jaworski explained.

"When I took this job, one of the things the President and I agreed on was my right to sue and to get whatever testimony I needed. And he's respected that."

Not far away, equally lionized by the 175 predominantly Texas Democrats, was Federal Judge John Sirica, uneasy about his new-found fame which placed him on the best-dressed men's list.

"I only own two suits," he insisted, "they were really referring to my robes."

He was equally insistent that his reputation as a tough judge was undeserved.

"In every case I feel I've done the right thing. My philosophy is that every judge should do what he thinks is right."

And that ended any further discussion of how fair he thought he might be in the forthcoming trials. As for the trials' duration, well, all he knew, he said, was "what the lawyers predict—two, three, four months."

Texans, of course, were everywhere—Sen. John Tower, Rep. James Collins, Rep. John Young, Rep. Jack Brooks, Chief of Protocol

designate Henry Catto, Frank Ikard, Les and Liz Carpenter, Dale and Scooter Miller.

Non-Texan Sen. Hubert Humphrey, abstaining from opinions about presidential guilt or innocence because "as a juror I ought not be making" those assumptions, was more outspoken on how things might have been had he won the 1968 election.

"I wouldn't have let it (Watergate) happen. I felt (Vice President) Ford said the truth in Chicago—that most of the deeds or misdeeds were not due to the Republicans . . . It was a bunch who fitted the title of CREEP."

Attorney General William Saxbe, calling Jaworski "a pluggier . . . when he wants something I get it for him," was talking about how he renewed the lease on his apartment only yesterday.

"You're more optimistic than your last predecessor," joked one guest.

"Oh, yeah," replied Saxbe, "the only way I can break it (the lease) is to leave town."

He said he had no immediate plans to do that.



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Leon Jaworski, left. Mrs. Everett Hutchinson and Jodge John Sirica at Monday evening's party.