

# Jaworski For Delay On Dean

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Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski suggested yesterday that the sentencing of former White House counsel John W. Dean III be postponed to keep it out of the headlines.

In what amounted to a lukewarm endorsement of Dean's own request for a delay, Jaworski proposed the sentencing be put off until a jury has been chosen and sequestered for the Watergate coverup trial.

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica had planned to sentence Dean at 10 a.m. today. The former White House counsel pleaded guilty in the Watergate coverup last fall and faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Dean's lawyers asked for a delay until Sirica can review the 64 Watergate tapes subpoenaed from President Nixon for the cover-up trial. The attorneys contended the record-

ings may shore up Dean's hopes for leniency by showing he was merely "an agent and sub-agent rather than principal" in the alleged conspiracy.

Jaworski argued against that as a reason for a postponement. He said the evidence already available — such as edited White House transcripts of many of the tapes — ought to be sufficient for Dean's lawyers to make their case before Sirica passes sentence.

But the prosecutor maintained there was "some merit, such as avoidance of additional publicity," in putting off Dean's sentence until after the jury as been chosen for the cover-up trial.

The trial is scheduled to start Sept. 9 with Dean as a star witness for the prosecution.

Jaworski said he would oppose any delay beyond that time and urged sentence be passed before Watergate prosecutors start presenting their case.

The prosecutors apparently are eager to have Dean sentenced by then to blunt any charges that hopes of a light penalty would color his testimony. Some of the jurors at the John Mitchell-Maurice Stans trial in New York earlier this year said they discounted Dean's testimony for that reason.

Sirica said he would consider the requests for a delay at today's hearing.