

Warren Accuses Probers of Leaks

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By Carroll Kilpatrick
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The White House yesterday accused the office of the Watergate special prosecutor of responsibility for two news leaks since Leon Jaworski succeeded Archibald Cox as chief of the prosecuting team.

One of the leaks was "staggering," deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren said. He said he had "no evidence" that Jaworski personally was responsible for the leaks.

Warren's comments came as reporters questioned him as to when President Nixon learned that a segment of 18 minutes of a June 20, 1972, White House tape recording was apparently obliterated.

James Doyle, spokesman for the special prosecutor, replied "no comment" when asked about Warren's charges.

Warren's complaint was against a Rowland Evans-Robert Novak column yesterday reporting that White House special counsel J. Fred Buzhardt went to Jaworski's office last Wednesday to ask for a delay in releasing information that the segment of the tape was obliterated. Jaworski refused and the matter was disclosed in the U.S. district court the same day.

The other complaint was against a report in the current Time magazine that Jaworski's office is investigating a \$100,000 contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign last year from the Seafarers International Union, which the President addressed yesterday.

[In a related development, Ralph Nader's Congress Watch said the Senate Watergate committee has subpoenaed the records of Chemical Bank of New York, from which the seafarers union borrowed \$100,000 without collateral.

[John Wynn, general counsel of the bank, disclosed the subpoena in a phone interview, David Ignatius of Congress Watch said. Wynn said an application for the loan, made at a branch of the bank, was sent over to the central office because of its "sensitivity," Ignatius disclosed.

[The president of the bank, Harold H. Helm, was fund-raiser for President Nixon and himself contributed \$6,300 before a disclosure law took effect.]

Warren said there was an obvious coincidence in the fact that Time reported an investigation was under way when the union was holding a convention here and the President was addressing it.

"I'm just pointing out a coincidence that I think is very obvious and staggering," Warren said.

Following the President's return to Washington last Tuesday, the President "insisted" that the information about the June 20 tape should be disclosed to the prosecutor and to U.S. Judge John J. Sirica, Warren said.

On that day, Mr. Nixon addressed the Republican Governors Association in Memphis and said that he did not know of any more "bombs" about to explode.

Oregon Gov. Tom McCall reported that he asked the President whether Republicans would be "blindsided by any more bombs" in the Watergate case.

"If there are any more bombs, I'm not aware of them," McCall quoted the President as saying.

Warren said that while the President knew that a portion of the tape was obliterated he was not certain until his return to Washington that it was one of those subpoenaed.

When he was in Memphis the President spoke "forthrightly" to the governors, Warren maintained. "There was confusion in the President's mind about whether this was indeed a subpoenaed tape."

McCall and others at the governors' meeting complained that the President had not "leveled" with them.

Asked why the President had not alerted the governors, Warren asked what is "a bombshell or shock" in "this atmosphere in Washington?" He said there had been a host of charges against the President and his family, which will be proven false.

"The President has a great desire to see that this information be developed fully and become known," Warren said.

But the White House continues to be concerned about leaks and wants the investigation conducted thoroughly and professionally and in the proper forum, Warren said.