

A SELLOUT HEARING AT SUPREME COURT

Oral Arguments Tomorrow on Nixon-Jaworski Dispute Over White House Tapes

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WASHINGTON, July 6—The hottest ticket in Washington this weekend will not get you into the local sports arena, the Kennedy Center Opera House, the Wolf Trap Outdoor Performing Arts Center or the private White House tour.

It is a small cardboard oblong headed "Special — Supreme Court of the United States" that admits the bearer on Monday to one of the most historically and politically significant sessions that the Justices have held in years.

Ever since the Court announced on May 31 that it would hear oral arguments on July 8 on the dispute between President Nixon and Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor, over 64 White House tape recordings, public and professional pressure for seats has been intense.

Ordinarily, there are about 250 seats in the courtroom, but another 70 or so temporary chairs are being added in the two aisles that flank the chamber. Despite political and celebrity pressure, more than a third of the total will go to the general public.

About 100 seats will be open to the general public, filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The doors will open at 9 A.M. but Court officials doubt that anyone arriving after 8 o'clock will get a seat.

Twenty-seven other places will be reserved for the public on a rotating basis, with a new set of spectators replacing an old one every five minutes.

The next largest representation will be from the press, which usually rates 35 seats and has been allocated about 70. There will be no television, no radio and no still photography, as is traditional in the courtroom, but a half-dozen artists have been admitted for television purposes.

Barrett McGurn, the Court public information officer, said that more than 100 requests for seats had been received from news media representatives. Some of the assignments only permit a reporter to occupy his seat for half the argument, which is expected to last from 2½ to 3 hours.

Mr. McGurn declined to provide a precise breakdown of the remaining seat allocations,

apparently for fear of offending rejected applicants, but it appeared that the 120 spaces not occupied by the press and public would go roughly along these lines:

Justices, for their personal friends or family, 27; law clerks, both those closing out their service and those reporting for the 1974-75 term, 40;

members of Congress, 25; lawyers who are members of the Supreme Court bar drawn in a lottery, 25; lawyers on the White House and special prosecutor's staffs, 6.

The last figure does not include the lawyers who will argue the cases—James D. St. Clair for the President and Mr. Jaworski, the special prosecu-

tor—each of whom will probably have two assistants.

Pressure for a seat in the courtroom has mounted even more during the last 10 days, with the increasing possibility that the Court will hand down its decision in the Detroit school desegregation case on Monday, just before the Watergate oral arguments.