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Jaworski Requests Subpoena For 63 More 'Nixon' Tapes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski asked federal court Tuesday to issue a subpoena for tape recordings of 63 presidential conversations, saying the White House has ignored his repeated requests.

He told the court the tapes and written material about the conversations are needed in the coming Watergate cover-up trial.

Jaworski filed a motion with U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica saying he has received no definitive response to his requests and "I... feel obligated

to seek these materials by subpoena."

At Key Biscayne, Fla., a White House spokesman said there would be no comment until the legal paper had been reviewed.

Many, but not all, the conversations already have been subpoenaed by the House Judiciary Committee for its impeachment inquiry. That subpoena is returnable on April 25th. The White House said it will let the committee know what it will supply soon after Congress' Easter recess ends on April 22.

Jaworski asked that the subpoena cover conversations on

27 specific days, beginning June 20, 1972—three days after the Watergate break-in—through June 4, 1973, a day when President Nixon listened to some key tapes.

Most of the conversations were face-to-face or by telephone either with H. R. Halde-

man and John D. Ehrlichman, Nixon's principal assistants and two of the seven men charged with conspiring to obstruct justice in the Watergate cover-up.

Some also were with Charles W. Colson, another top White House aide who is among those indicted.

The trial of the three men, and co-defendants John N. Mitchell, Gordon Strachan, Kenneth W. Parkinson and Robert C. Mardian, is scheduled Sept. 9 before Sirica.

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to the government indicates that each of these materials contains or is likely to contain evidence that will be relevant and material to the trial of this case," Jaworski's motion said.

Jaworski said he asked the President's Watergate lawyer, James D. St. Clair, for the tapes and related documents on Jan. 9 and March 12.

On April 11, Jaworski informed St. Clair he would seek a subpoena in five days "to secure a prompt and fair trial for the government and the defendants."

He noted St. Clair had told him the prosecutor's office would receive all material turned over to the impeachment inquiry but "I have emphasized repeatedly that our request is in no way tied to the requests of the House Judiciary Committee. The requests are distinguishable both factually and legally."

The subpoena would be the fourth issued against the President in the Watergate affair.

Jaworski's predecessor, Archibald Cox, went to Sirica last year and eventually obtained a subpoena for nine tape recordings. After the Court of Appeals upheld Sirica, the White House announced it would comply, but later produced only seven tapes—one with an 18½-minute gap.

It voluntarily supplied other tapes so that eventually 19 went to the grand jury.

The Senate Watergate Committee was less successful in its subpoena for five recordings. The matter still is in the appeals court.

The House Judiciary Committee's subpoena for tapes of 42 conversations was issued April 11.