

Prosecutors Get Most of Data Sought

By William Chapman
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The White House for the first time has voluntarily turned over tapes of some of President Nixon's conversations to Watergate prosecutors.

The President's lawyer also gave the Watergate Special Prosecution Force "a substantial number" of documents that had been sought.

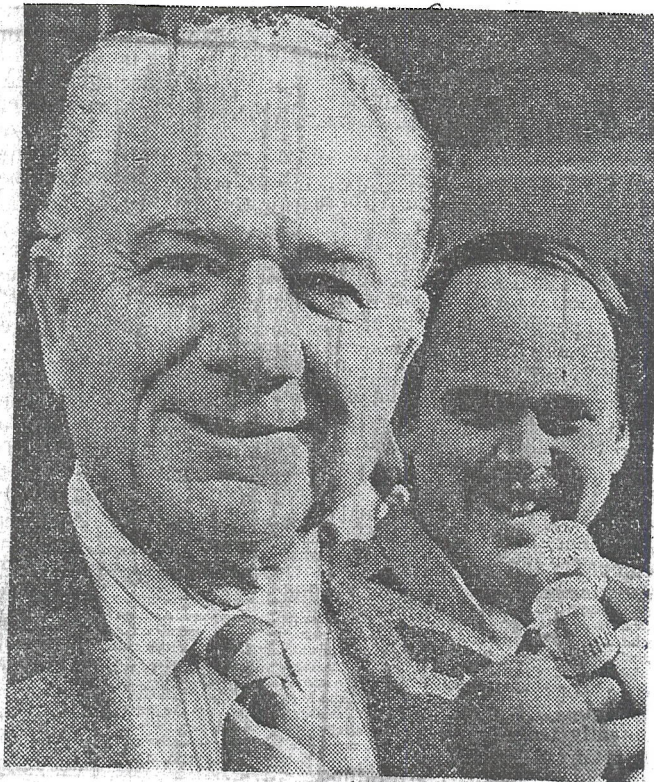
Neither the White House nor Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski's office would identify yesterday the tapes or disclose how many had been submitted. However, it was understood that Jaworski was given most of the presidential tapes that he and his deposed predecessor, Archibald Cox, had been seeking since early last summer.

They are believed to involve presidential conversations dealing not only with the Watergate bugging and cover-up but also with political contributions from dairy men and the settlement of an antitrust suit against International Telephone and Telegraph.

Meanwhile, Jaworski also received copies of tapes of two other presidential conversations from U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica. They were two of the nine that had been subpoenaed and finally delivered to Sirica's court after lengthy litigation. Both involved meetings between Mr. Nixon and his former counsel, John W. Dean III, and Dean has said the conversations dealt with elements of the Watergate cover-up.

The other tapes, which had not been subpoenaed, were delivered Saturday to Jaworski's office. His statement yesterday described their number as "significant." He said, "Such of these as contain information material to the Special Prosecutor's in-

See TAPES, A12, Col. 1



Associated Press

Leon Jaworski announces receipt of more Nixon tapes.

TAPES, From A1

investigations will be presented to the grand jury without delay."

Jaworski's statement also said that a "substantial number" of documents requested earlier were delivered and "assurances have been given by White House counsel that searches are now in progress for other documents for which requests are outstanding."

The White House earlier this year had provided the Special Prosecutor's Office with documents, but never before had it voluntarily supplied it with tapes of presidential conversations. Until required by Sirica and the U.S. Court of Appeals here to surrender the nine subpoenaed tapes, the President had maintained they should be withheld under the doctrine of executive privilege.

Jaworski said yesterday that there are "still some outstanding requests for tapes from the White House."

At the White House, deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren declined to identify the tapes, saying he would "prefer to maintain confidentiality" in dealings with Jaworski's office.

One of the tapes long sought by the prosecutor is that of a telephone conver-

sation Mr. Nixon had in April, 1971, with Richard G. Kleindienst, then the deputy attorney general, about the ITT case. The White House has acknowledged that Kleindienst was told then not to appeal an antitrust decision favoring the corporation.

In addition, Jaworski has previously expressed interest in tape recordings of a meeting on Jan. 4, 1973, between the President and his former aide, Charles Colson. Shortly after being appointed, Jaworski sent a letter to the President's special counsel, J. Fred Buzhardt, calling the tape and some other material "essential" to the investigation.

At the same time, he had also sought a tape of a conversation the previous day among the President, Colson, and two former aides, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman.

Dean, in testimony last summer before the Senate Watergate committee, asserted that at about that time Colson told Ehrlichman that one of the break-in conspirators, E. Howard Hunt, should be given assurances of executive clemency. Ehrlichman said he would speak to the President about it, Dean testified. He said that on Jan. 4 he learned from Ehrlichman that "he had given an affirmative re-

guarding clemency for Hunt

The two taped conversations turned over to the prosecution yesterday by Judge Sirica are believed to shed light on Dean's assertions that the President was aware of attempts to cover up the Watergate break-in.

The conversations took place among Mr. Nixon, Dean and other aides on March 13 and 22, 1973. At the first meeting, Dean testified, the subjects of raising money for the Watergate conspirators and clemency were discussed. He said Mr. Nixon told him it would be "no problem" to raise a million dollars for the convicted men. Haldeman subsequently testified Mr. Nixon went on to say it would be "wrong" to do so.

At the March 22 meeting, Dean testified, the President and several aides discussed "strategies" for dealing with the Senate hearings. Dean testified he was displeased with the meeting, because he said no effort was made to "get the truth out" about the Watergate bugging. It took place one day after the day on which Mr. Nixon has said he received new evidence about the Watergate scandal and ordered a new investigation.

Judge Sirica told newsmen yesterday that technical experts are taking another look at the tape of a June 20 conversation between the President and Haldeman in an effort to determine what caused an 18 1/4-minute gap. The technical experts in New York had examined the tape in a laboratory and returned it to the judge a week ago. During the weekend they asked for it back, Sirica said. He hopes to have their report by the end of the week.