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Jaworski's Tough Task

Washington

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR Leon A. Jaworski's access to White House files has greatly expedited his work in preparing the Watergate indictments he expects to return within a month. It has also nurtured the doubts that accompanied him when he took over Archibald Cox's duties.

Jaworski has not had to exercise the right to sue which he extracted from the President through Alexander Haig last October 31, when flames from the Cox firing still lit the skies. He has not even had to use his subpoena powers. A signed request has been enough.



Jaworski knows that his success, which contrasts so vividly with the struggles of two congressional committees, is regarded as further proof by those who hold he was accepted by Nixon as a "safe" member of the Texas Establishment, a friend and counselor of Lyndon Johnson and a non-wave-making president of the American Bar Association who could be trusted to respect the Presidency.

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SAYS JAWORSKI, "I could not blame these people who have looked at me with doubting eyes. I don't think I will ever overcome it until my job is completed. I took this job without the slightest assurances to anybody about anything."

He is even more sensitive to talk that his staff is holding him hostage.

Conservative Texans are putting it about that "Leon is a reasonable man, but he is being pushed by those firebrands."

The White House tried to advance this theory with an attack on junior staff members which carefully excluded Jaworski. After strong, private representations from Jaworski to both Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler and Haig, nothing further has been heard.

But the final verdict on Jaworski may be made not on the basis of the indictments, the trials or even convictions. He may be judged instead on the outcome of the graver matter of impeachment, and the degree of cooperation he sees fit to give, to the possible detriment of his own cases, to the House judiciary panel which is just beginning its inquiry.

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JOHN DOAR, the hard pressed chief counsel of the panel, spoke wistfully of his two meetings with the special prosecutor "to discuss the possibility of an arrangement to get Jaworski's files."

"We have not reached an agreement," Doar said, "and on both occasions he expressed his serious legal responsibilities." Doar has a nervous chairman, agitated Republicans and a deadline to handle.

Jaworski took his thankless job because, he said, "Haig put the patriotic monkey on my back." He is pondering his patriotic duty, how much he can and should do is the central question of impeachment.

In a book about his experience as a war crimes prosecutor, in Germany after World War II, published in 1961 and called "After Fifteen Years," he wrote: "No nation, however powerful and whatever be its form of government can long withstand the stranglehold of moral deterioration in its people."