

Jaworski Will Not Confirm

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Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski said yesterday he was having discussions with some individuals under investigation, but he stopped short of calling the meetings plea-bargaining sessions.

Interviewed on NBC-TV's "Today" show (WRC) Jaworski was asked, "Are you now engaged in plea-bargaining sessions with prospective indictees?"

"If you ask me if I have [had] some discussions, I will go that far," the prosecutor replied. "I'm not going to identify any individual. It wouldn't be fair."

Jaworski added that "more than one" individual is involved and that the names are well known.

A spokesman for the Watergate Special Prosecution Force would not confirm whether any plea-bargaining sessions are being conducted.

Last week lawyers for former White House adviser John D. Ehrlichman said their client had a "significant" visit with Jaworski, but the prosecutor denied that he had offered Ehrlichman any deal in terms of a reduced charge in return for his cooperation with the government.

Jaworski suggested to Washington Post reporter George Lardner Jr. last week that it is "conceivable" that none of his cases will come to trial—in

other words, that all persons under investigation in the Watergate scandal will plead guilty to charges rather than undergo trials.

The special prosecutor told the "Today" interviewers that "it would be very difficult" to conclude that the 18½-minute erasure of a June 20, 1972, White House tape was an accident.

He was speaking only hours before U.S. District Court

Any Plea-Bargaining

Chief Judge John J. Sirica recommended that Jaworski consider opening a grand jury investigation of the tape matter.

Sirica said there was a "distinct possibility of unlawful conduct on the part of one or more persons . . . of unlawful tampering with or suppression of evidence."

During the TV interview, Jaworski said that if he thinks President Nixon "had information that was needed or was of assistance in providing the facts that we need to know, I

would certainly request that the President let us have that information."

He also made clear that Mr. Nixon is a target of his investigation. "The President is included as much as his appointees," Jaworski said.

But he said there is "serious doubt" that the President can be indicted for any offense "no matter what the evidence may show."

However, Jaworski reiterated his reluctance to turn over the evidence he has accu-

mulated to the ad hoc House Judiciary subcommittee that is considering whether Mr. Nixon should be impeached.

He suggested that only a decision by Judge Sirica to "lift the cloak of secrecy" would allow him to release his findings to the House subcommittee. If Congress passes legislation requiring the transfer of information, there still might remain "a question with respect to its validity or its constitutionality," he said.

Another factor in any re-

lease of information, Jaworski added, would be whether the Judiciary unit's hearings will be held in secret or in public sessions. The prosecutor said he is bound by grand jury rules of secrecy.

Asked if he is not in a position of having evidence he cannot use himself against Mr. Nixon and at the same time blocking its use by the Judiciary subcommittee, Jaworski said the evidence he has can be used in "a number of trials."