

Jaworski, Nixon at Odds

On Need for More Tapes

Washington

Special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski, disagreeing with President Nixon's assertion in the State of the Union address, said yesterday that he needs — and has formally requested — more tapes and documents than the White House has given him.

In a television interview, Jaworski pictured himself as close to another confrontation with Mr. Nixon's lawyers over cooperation in the Watergate case.

He said he had been promised an answer by today to his request for further evidence.

Jaworski declined to say whether, if his request is denied, he will subpoena the White House evidence and go to court to get it — as Archibald Cox did last fall in proceedings that led the White House to turn over some Watergate tapes to the court and also to dismiss Cox, the first special prosecutor.

Asked what he will do if an impasse develops, Jaworski said: "I cannot answer that today. I will know that probably tomorrow, unfortunately."

Mr. Nixon, in his address to Congress last Wednesday evening, said he had provided Jaworski "all the material that he needs to conclude his investigations and to proceed to prosecute the guilty and to clear the innocent."

Jaworski, on the contrary, said that further materials — "some are documents and some are also in the nature of tapes" — might be necessary to avoid "unduly prolonging" the return of the

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numerous indictments he and his staff have been preparing with a federal grand jury here.

Jaworski also said that if the material he has gathered in his Watergate investigation is subpoenaed by the House Judiciary committee he will refuse to turn it over.

"I have only one course I can follow: to hold the evidence secret," he said on the ABC program "Issues and Answers."

He said he sees no way at this time to give the material to the committee and subpoenaed, "I'd meet the gentlemen at the courthouse."

Because the Watergate-related materials are being presented to a grand jury, "I have no right to release them," he said.

Meanwhile Vice President Gerald Ford said on another TV program that the White House should release "as quickly as possible" any evidence that it reportedly has proving Mr. Nixon had no knowledge of the Watergate coverup before last March 21.

Ford also said that the Judiciary Committee should be granted subpoena powers by the full house. But he added that the panel has "no right to go on a fishing expedition" when it does request White House tapes and documents.

"... To let them go through all of the files of the White House or any of the executive branches I think is unreasonable," he said. "I think there would have to be a logical explanation (by the committee) for the seeking of any individual documents."

Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott said recently that he had seen evidence that could clear the President of charges by his former counsel, John W. Dean III, that Mr. Nixon was



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WATERGATE PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI
He denied the material had been spoon-fed to him

aware of the Watergate cover-up effort.

Scott said the evidence included summaries and partial transcripts of White House tapes which prove that Dean lied.

Ford said it would be "advantageous to get out the tape or the transcript or whatever the document is that has convinced Senator Scott beyond any doubt that the President is right and Mr. Dean is wrong."

"I would hope that would be made available as quickly as possible," he said.

He made his remarks in an interview on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Jaworski said indictments could be expected later this month, and took issue with a statement made by Ford that the prosecutor had been given more tapes than he requested from the White House.

"I have some requests outstanding for tapes," he said. "Any idea this material has been spoon-fed me is in error. I've had to go after it."

Ford said Mr. Nixon's statement during his State of the Union address Wednesday night that one year of Watergate was enough should be taken figuratively and not literally because court cases and the House impeachment inquiry are pending.

"He recognized certain things still have to be wrapped up in the House committee on the judiciary," Ford said.

Jaworski disputed the statement that one year was sufficient.

"We've worked long hours," he said. "We've moved ahead as fast as anybody can move, consistent with fairness," but more time is needed.

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