

Jaworski Reply to Chapin Criticism

Washington

Special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski said yesterday his comments in support of John W. Dean III's veracity did not prejudice former presidential appointments secretary Dwight L. Chapin's right to a fair trial.

Responding to Chapin's criticism that Jaworski departed from the rule admonishing prosecutors to refrain from public communications, Jaworski said in an eight-page memo in U.S. District Court:

"At most, any departure was marginal and inadvertent."

Jaworski said on ABC's Issues and Answers February

3. "We are not aware of any basis for a perjury charge" in reference to Dean's testimony about Watergate.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell meantime scheduled a hearing today on Chapin's argument that Dean, former White House counsel, should not be allowed as a prosecution witness on grounds the two men had a confidential attorney-client relationship.

Chapin goes on trial before Gesell April 1 on a four-count indictment charging he lied to the Grand Jury about the activities of Donald H. Segretti, now in prison for distribution of illegal campaign literature in the Florida primary.

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