

Jaworski Pressed on Nixon Role

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The seven former White House aides and Nixon campaign advisers indicted in the Watergate cover-up demanded a complete list yesterday of all those who allegedly joined them in the conspiracy.

The demand confronted Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski with the ticklish problem of making a public pronouncement on President Nixon's role in the scandal.

In drafting the indictment against the seven men earlier this year, Jaworski sidestepped the issue by simply accusing them of conspiring with others "known and unknown" to block the original investigation of the Watergate bugging and break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters here.

The defendants insisted yesterday on a bill of particulars from Jaworski that would set out "the names, titles and addresses of all persons alleged to have conspired" with them.

Under the deadlines set by U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica on the motions, Jaworski will have to come up with his answer by June 3.

"They (the prosecutors) have to tell the truth," emphasized one defense lawyer. "There is no legal means that I know of for not answering the question. But if they name the President, they'd

better have some darn good evidence."

The seven defendants also called on the prosecutors to "state which conspirators or co-conspirators made or caused to be made offers of leniency, executive clemency and other benefits" that were allegedly transmitted to the original Watergate defendants to keep them from talking.

Turning in dozens of motions with lengthy exhibits, one of which included 5,000 news stories on the Watergate scandal, the defense lawyers pulled out all the stop in an attempt to get the indictment dismissed, or the trial switched to another city or postponed.

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell turned in the results of a private survey by pollster Albert Sindlinger to support Mitchell's claim that he cannot get a fair trial in Washington.

According to the findings by Sindlinger, who is one of President Nixon's favorite pollsters, 75 per cent of those in a nationwide sample who had heard about the cover-up charges considered the defendants guilty and only seven per cent thought them innocent.

In the District of Columbia, the poll said, 84 per cent of those familiar with the charges considered the defendants guilty and only two per cent thought them innocent.

Mitchell and his co-defendants also served notice that they intend to press hard for the tapes of presidential conversations involving them and to seek dismissal of the charges if Jaworski cannot produce them.

Former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman said he wanted to inspect "and test" the original recordings of every conversation he ever had with Mr. Nixon, and not just about Watergate.

The President announced at the same time, in a separate response to a Jaworski subpoena, that he would not surrender any more tapes.

Haldeman said he also wanted to inspect:

- The originals of all the secret Watergate grand jury documents stuffed into the bulging valise that was turned over to the House Judiciary Committee for its impeachment inquiry.

- The files of former White House counsel John W. Dean III, who has already pleaded guilty to cover-up charges and is expected to be a key government witness.

- The Watergate diary kept by the original government prosecutor in the case, Earl J. Silbert.

- All records of the Senate Watergate committee, of several other congressional investigations, and of the Central Intelligence Agency

insofar as they bear on Watergate or on the 1971 break-in at the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Several of the defendants asked for separate trials so that they could call the others as witnesses in their behalf, a step not open to where every accused person has the right not to testify. Former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian said he would be at an overwhelming disadvantage if Mitchell were to "remain mute."

Similarly, former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson contended that the indictment clearly showed that he was "thought to be only on the outer edge of the conspiracy."

But at a joint trial, he protested, "in an effort to extricate themselves, some defendants may feel obliged to point their fingers at Colson."

Protests were also lodged against the decision of Watergate prosecutors to produce some documents sought by the defendants only 30 days before trial. With a deadline like that, Mardian's lawyers said, it would be "absolutely impossible for seven attorneys to read, examine and study the massive amount of material which rightfully must be produced."