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**Saxbe Reaffirms His Support
Of Jaworski's Independent Role**

**Tells Senate Panel He Will
'Use Appropriate Means'
to Protect Prosecutor**

By LESLEY OELSNER

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WASHINGTON, May 23—Attorney General William B. Saxbe promised today to "use appropriate means" to support the independence of Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor.

He gave his pledge to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which had sought assurance from him after Mr. Jaworski complained on Monday of improper interference by President Nixon.

He repeated his assurances to reporters, telling them that Mr. Jaworski was secure in his job.

Mr. Jaworski is technically Mr. Saxbe's subordinate in the Department of Justice; as Mr. Saxbe told the reporters, the Attorney General is thus the only official entitled to dismiss Mr. Jaworski.

"I have no intention to do so," he said.

The concern over the possibility that Mr. Jaworski might be dismissed stemmed from the disclosure Monday of a dispute between Mr. Jaworski and the President over the prosecutor's authority—and the fact that Mr. Nixon order the dismissal of Mr. Jaworski's predecessor, Achibald Cox, after a similar dispute over authority.

Brief Filed by St. Clair

The cause of the Jaworski-Nixon dispute was a legal brief that the President's chief defense counsel, James D. St. Clair, had filed during closed court proceedings before Judge John J. Sirica of Federal District Court.

In the brief, Mr. St. Clair argued in effect that Mr. Jaworski was an employe of President Nixon in the executive branch and that as a result, he could not pursue in court his attempts to get evidence that Mr. Nixon wanted to withhold.

Judge Sirica found that this argument was an "attempt" by



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William B. Saxbe, Attorney General, talking to reporters in Washington yesterday about position of the special prosecutor.

Mr. Nixon to undercut the prosecutor's independence in violation of both the President's own statements and the charter outlining the prosecutor's duties.

Mr. Jaworski, for his part, said that the President's argument would make a "face" of his role.

Mr. Saxbe promised the Senate Judiciary Committee during his confirmation hearings last winter that he would reject any improper orders by the President to fire the special prosecutor.

He also told the committee that he would not resign, unlike his predecessor, Elliot L. Richardson, who quit as Attorney General rather than carry out Mr. Nixon's order to discharge Mr. Cox.

The President, Mr. Saxbe said, would have to dismiss him.

The chairman of the Judiciary Committee, James O. Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, wrote Mr. Saxbe yesterday on behalf of the committee and asked him to reaffirm his promises of last winter.

Mr. Saxbe sent his response to Mr. Eastland this afternoon, repeating almost verbatim the relatively mild phrases such as "appropriate measures" that Mr. Eastland had used.

Mr. Saxbe, who was blunt and outspoken in his first few months as Attorney General, has lately toned down his public remarks following criticism directed at him for some of them. He has also stopped, at least for the moment, the weekly meetings with reporters at which he made many of the remarks that led to the criticism.