

Jaworski Absolves I.T.T. Of Crime in Trust Dispute

By E. W. KENWORTHY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 30 — Leon Jaworski, the special Watergate prosecutor, said today that his office had found no evidence that executives of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation committed any criminal offenses in connection with the 1971 settlement of Government antitrust suits against the conglomerate.

In a letter to Representative J. J. Pickle of Texas, the ranking Democrat on the Special Investigations Subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee, Mr. Jaworski said that the investigation of the case was not being closed but that "it is fair to say that there is no present expectation of a disclosure of such offenses."

The special prosecutor said nothing about allegations of impropriety that have been made against Administration officials in connection with the antitrust cases.

But Mr. Jaworski went on to

say that, under the new leadership of the force investigating the case, there would be a vigorous investigation of allegations of improper political influence in connection with proceedings before the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Internal Revenue Service.

The shift in leadership of the investigative force resulted from the resignation in the last five days of three of the group's four members.

Finally, Mr. Jaworski assured Mr. Pickle that the force would continue to investigate allegations that perjury was committed in hearings in March and April, 1972, when the Senate Judiciary Committee looked into the confirmation of Richard G. Kleindienst as Attorney General.

Thus, Mr. Jaworski indicated that the investigative force, under the new command of

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Richard J. Davis, would concentrate on allegations of perjury, obstruction of justice and improper influence by either I.T.T. or Nixon Administration officials in matters unrelated to the settlement of the antitrust suits.

Apparently, this would include testimony before the S.E.C. by the conglomerate's officials, the possibility of White House influence in a highly beneficial tax ruling by the Internal Revenue Service in 1969 that enabled the conglomerate to acquire the Hart-

ford Fire Insurance Company, and the possibility of obstruction of justice by either I.T.T. or Administration officials in connection with a packet of 13 "politically sensitive" I.T.T. documents that detailed meetings between company and Administration officials.

Mr. Davis succeeded Joseph G. J. Connolly, who resigned last Friday. Yesterday, Mr. Jaworski announced the resignation of two more of the original I.T.T. force lawyers—Lawrence Austin Hammond and Paul R. Hoeber.

The resignations reportedly were the result of unhappiness over Mr. Jaworski's decision to

let Mr. Kleindienst plead guilty to a misdemeanor rather than to prosecute him for perjury, a felony, during his confirmation hearings.

Mr. Jaworski was apparently attempting to assure Mr. Pickle on the I.T.T. investigation because the Texas Democrat had written him last November, asking him to look into a number of questions, including the possibility that Mr. Kleindienst had obstructed justice and the possibility of White House influence in the tax ruling.

Mr. Jaworski assured Mr. Pickle last Nov. 27 that these matters would be thoroughly investigated.

The New York Times

Published: May 31, 1974

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