

Jaworski Against Putting Off Trial

Washington

Special prosecutor Leon Jaworski has told the Supreme Court that the defendants in the Watergate coverup case can get a fair trial without the postponement one of them is seeking.

Jaworski filed a response Monday to a petition filed last week by John D. Ehrlichman, once a top aide to former President Nixon, seeking to have the trial delayed until next year.

Ehrlichman's request has been referred to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, whose regular assignment includes considering such petitions concerning cases in District of Columbia courts.

Burger, who returned last week from a vacation in Europe, could grant or deny the petition himself or confer informally with the other

members of the court and announce a decision. The court is in recess until October 7.

The coverup trial was originally set for September 9, but U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica last week postponed it until September 30 at the suggestion of the Court of Appeals.

Ehrlichman contended he needed more time than this to prepare his defense and that a trial so soon would be unfair because of publicity about and leading up to Mr. Nixon's resignation on August 9.

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