

Jaworski Deputy Likely To Get Watergate Job

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Attorney General William Saxbe is expected to name Henry S. Ruth as special Watergate prosecutor to succeed Leon Jaworski, the Houston lawyer who supervised prosecution of former President Nixon's top White House aides.

Announcement of Ruth's appointment could come either today or Thursday and has been cleared with President Ford, White House and Justice Department sources said yesterday.

White House counsel Philip Buchen, Mr. Ford's liaison with the Justice Department on appointment of a new special prosecutor, talked to Saxbe and the President in the last 24 hours and reportedly assured the Attorney General that there are no obstacles to naming Ruth, who served as Jaworski's deputy.

Ruth, 43, a Philadelphia native, was publicly recommended by Jaworski as his successor. His appointment also is favored by Saxbe. Despite lack of opposition to the appointment, Saxbe is scheduled to meet today with Mr. Ford to discuss the appointment, a Justice Department spokesman said.

"They have to go through the formality of Saxbe seeing Ford," one Justice Department source said.

With Jaworski scheduled to leave the post Friday, sources said he is expected to try to wrap up some of the most important remaining Watergate investigations.

Among these are investigations of former President Nixon's close friend, Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo and former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans. Jaworski has indicated recently in interviews that he would like to complete all major Watergate investigations before leaving Washington.

One investigation pending, sources said yesterday, is a probe into the role allegedly played by former White House political aide Harry J. Dent in a secret White House effort to distribute campaign funds to GOP congressional candidates in the 1970 general elections. Dent now is counsel to the Republican National Committee.

The investigation of Dent, the sources said, is linked to a statement made last February by former President Nixon's former personal attorney, Herbert Kalmbach, when Kalmbach

pleaded guilty to violating federal campaign laws. At the time, Kalmbach said he, Dent, H.R. (Bob) Haldeman and Jack A. Gleason, a Republican fund-raiser formerly on Dent's White House staff, spearheaded the money distribution operation, which was run from a town house in the District.

The "town house operation," the government charged at the time, amounted to a political campaign finance committee that failed to register as required by law.

Kalmbach was sentenced last June to a jail term of 6 to 18 months and fined \$10,000 for his admitted role in the town house operation.

The town house operation reportedly was headed by Gleason and distributed about \$12 million to Republican House and Senate candidates. Of that amount, Kalmbach admitted soliciting \$2.8 million—including \$1.1 million from a single, unnamed individual.

Gleason, originally a professional fund-raiser from New York, worked out of a back-room office in the basement of a town house at 1310 19th St. NW.

At the time Kalmbach pleaded guilty, assistant prosecutor Charles O. Ruff, evidently alluding to Dent, Gleason and Haldeman, said "the three gentleman" from the

White House constituted a political committee under federal law, but failed to designate a treasurer or chairman or to make the periodic reports to the clerk of the House that were then required under the Corrupt Practices Act.

A major recipient of the town house operation's largesse was Sen. J. Glenn Beall (R-Md.), who received about \$200,000 in a successful campaign against former Democratic Sen. Joseph D. Tydings. Beall's handling of the money was investigated last year by an Anne Arundel County grand jury, which found that no state law had been violated.

Dent, whose office reported that he is traveling, could not be reached for comment. Judah Best, reportedly Dent's Washington lawyer, refused to comment.

Dent, 43, became counsel to the Republican National Committee last February after his appointment received strong backing by conservative Republicans. He was recognized as a chief architect of the Nixon administration's early Southern strategy and, while in the White House, functioned as a political strategist and patronage aide.