

Jaworski Opposes Effort by Owner Of Yankees to Have Charge Dropped

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Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski asked a federal judge yesterday to deny a request by George M. Steinbrenner III, majority owner of the New York Yankees, to drop charges against him in connection with an elaborate kickback scheme for raising campaign contributions.

Steinbrenner, chairman of American Shipbuilding Co., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Cleveland April 5 on a variety of conspiracy and obstruction of justice

charges connected to illegal campaign contributions to President Nixon and several congressmen.

Steinbrenner is accused of authorizing fake bonuses of his shipbuilding company employees, who in turn gave the money to campaign committees for Mr. Nixon and the congressmen.

Attorneys for Steinbrenner had filed motions asking for dismissal of the charges on a variety of grounds, including prejudicial pretrial publicity and unconstitutionality.

Steinbrenner had also filed motions under discovery of evidence rules asking the special prosecutor to turn over presidential tape recordings and documents relating to the campaign fund-raising practices of former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans and Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's former attorney. Both were active in re-election fund-raising.

Jaworski called Steinbrenner's request for the tapes "a classic example of a fishing expedition," and said the tapes are irrelevant to the charges.

The defendant's request should be recognized for what

it is, a bald attempt to inject wholly unrelated issues which are currently in vogue into an essentially routine criminal prosecution of a private individual and corporation," Jaworski said in a memorandum filed with the court.

As for the issue of pre-trial publicity, Jaworski argued, "In other cases far more directly in the glare of the Watergate publicity defendants have moved for dismissal or . . . for continuance. In each case, the trial judge denied the motion . . ."

The 15-count indictment accuses Steinbrenner of attempting to obstruct two grand jury probes by destroying and falsifying records and ordering company officers to lie to FBI agents and to grand juries in Cleveland and Washington, D.C.