

# Jaworski Eyes Probing Foreign '72 Gifts

By Seth Kantor

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Watergate Special Prosecu-

tor Leon Jaworski has cleared the way for an investigation by his office into political contributions made to President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign from foreign sources.

Jaworski's view that the gifts may have been illegal is in sharp disagreement with an earlier Justice Department decision that the gifts were legal.

The decision by Jaworski is expected to lead to a probe of campaign funds delivered to the Committee for the Re-election of the President in 1972 by Thomas A. Pappas of Athens and the late Greek

ship-owner Nikos J. Vardinoyiannis.

Justice Department officials have decided that a \$27,500 gift to the CRP from Vardinoyiannis was not illegal, even though nearly half the contribution was made after a Greek company headed by Vardinoyiannis was named to supply fuel to the U.S. 6th Fleet.

Federal law bars any federal contractor or any "foreign principal" from contributing to U.S. political campaigns. Justice Department attorneys decided even before Vardinoyiannis died last year of a heart attack not to investigate his 1972 contributions. They ruled that a foreign principal was considered to be either a foreign

country or a foreign organization, but not a private foreign citizen.

In a position paper seen by The Detroit News, Jaworski decided this week that "we do not necessarily feel bound by the interpretation" of the Justice Department.

The Jaworski decision means he could examine a number of foreign-source contributions that have not been looked into by any of the four Attorneys General in the Nixon administration.

Last month, before William B. Saxbe took over at the Justice Department, Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen referred the Vardinoyiannis matter to Jaworski for an opinion.

A spokesman for Jaworski said today that to his knowledge it marked the first time that the Justice Department referred any matter dealing with campaign contributions to the special prosecutor.

Pappas, a major industrialist in Greece and a friend of Vardinoyiannis, delivered more than \$100,000 in his own name to the CRP before April 7, 1972, when a law went into effect forcing public disclosure of presidential campaign contributors by name and amounts.

Pappas became an American citizen and a successful Boston businessman before moving back to Greece in the early 1960s. However, he was a major fund-raiser for the

Nixon campaigns of 1968 and 1972.

Close observers of the Watergate investigation believe Jaworski's office intends to check into allegations that Arab oil money also infiltrated the 1972 presidential campaign, as well as money from sources in Greece, which has been ruled by military juntas since 1967.

Jaworski commented that "we cannot comment on matters under investigation," in describing how far his office might go in probing CRP financing from abroad.

It is known that there were at least \$136,000 in contributions from unknown sources to the CRP which officials there were "unable to identify."