

White House Finds Jaworski No Easier Than Cox

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 30—Word is quietly spreading from the special Watergate prosecutor's office that if the White House hated Archibald Cox, it will detest Leon Jaworski.

The first storm signals went up this week from the White House and they came exactly three weeks to the day after Mr. Jaworski was sworn in to replace Mr. Cox as director of the criminal investigations of the Watergate scandals.

Those signals were contained in the first public White House criticism of his operation.

Mr. Jaworski, asked by reporters yesterday as he left the Federal courthouse if the "honeymoon" period with the White House might be over, replied:

"I don't know I ever had a honeymoon period with them."

He went on to say that he was only doing his duty as special prosecutor.

Meanwhile, at the White House, Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary, attacked Mr. Jaworski's staff.

Criticism From Warren

The criticism began early this week when Gerald L. Warren, the deputy Presidential press secretary, told reporters on Monday and Tuesday—and twice was an indication that someone at the White House was concerned—that there were problems with Mr. Jaworski's office.

There might have been news leaks, Mr. Warren said. He counted two. At the Justice Department they counted three.

But aside from the number and substance of the alleged leaks, several other points stand out.

Mr. Jaworski's connections to the White House were much closer than any Mr. Cox ever had. He was selected and interviewed by Alexander M. Haig, the White House chief of staff, and J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., special counsel to the President, before taking the job.

Mr. Cox, on the other hand, was selected by his old law school student, Elliot L. Richardson, who was the Attorney General. Mr. Richardson said he later informed the White House of his choice. When no objection was raised by the President's people, he said, Professor Cox was sworn in.

Mr. Jaworski, with closer

ties, might have expected to have been reached in person over the problem of leaks, rather than have it brought up twice at White House briefings. Though such meetings were never held with Mr. Cox, Mr. Jaworski's style was different.

On Nov. 24, according to sources at the special prosecutor's office, Mr. Buzhardt and Leonard Garment, the President's counsel, came up to the elaborately secure ninth floor offices of the special prosecutor and met with Mr. Jaworski.

It was the first visit from White House officials since the special prosecutor's office opened up last May.

At the meeting, the sources said, the two White House lawyers told Mr. Jaworski for the first time of the 18-minute buzzing sound that blots out part of a conversation between Mr. Nixon and H. R. Haldeman on one of the key tape recordings made in Mr. Nixon's offices.

They were seeking a delay before bringing the matter to the attention of the court. Mr. Jaworski refused the request for a delay.

Against such a background of a personal meeting and the method in which he was chosen, a simple telephone call on the alleged leaks might have handled the matter. No call was made, Mr. Jaworski's staff reported.

Apparently the communications link broke down.

The whole subject of leaks has been remarkably sensitive with the Nixon Administration. Veteran White House observers say there have probably been fewer leaks from Mr. Nixon's White House than during any other Administration in recent history. And, the same observers say, there has probably been more furor over leaks and alleged leaks than during any other Administration.

According to testimony before the Senate Watergate committee and in other investigations, and to public statements and affidavits in civil case, this concern has led to excesses ranging from domestic wiretapping to burglary.

Aside from the current concern over leaks, there are other sore points between the Administration and Mr. Jaworski, officials have said.

Mr. Jaworski has made no changes in the staff, even though the White House had complained that it was loaded with partisan Democrats.

Like Mr. Cox, he has been pressing the White House for tapes and documents. This was the issue that brought on Mr. Cox's dismissal Oct. 20.

Mr. Jaworski has made it clear he will not allow such matters as the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation investigation to fall

between two jurisdictional chairs but has firmly taken it on his own lap.

His jurisdiction—a matter that was a chronic point of irritation to the White House, according to Mr. Richardson—is just as wide as Mr. Cox's.

Mr. Jaworski, in his first major legal argument on Nov. 12, touched another tender White House nerve. He said that "not even the highest office in the land" may break the law in the name of national security. President Nixon has publicly stated that there is an inherent power in the Presidency to do so.

Lawyers at the special prosecutor's office note that the Administration, in shifting from Mr. Cox to Mr. Jaworski, has exchanged a legal scholar concerned with the niceties of the law for a trial lawyer who is concerned with winning cases.

Mr. Cox, the staff men said, leaned over backwards to make sure that even minor points of law and fact were right in what he regarded as a historic case. They said the indications from Mr. Jaworski were that he will move much more quickly.

"I wonder who it was in the White House who assured them that Jaworski would be all right," one staff member commented.

"Whoever he is, he's on his way to Siberia," replied another.