

In His Own Right

Archibald Cox was a hard act to follow, but Leon Jaworski, the new special Watergate prosecutor, put on a bravura performance last week. Appearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Jaworski testified that the investigation begun by Cox was moving ahead, added that "nothing has been dropped from

our agenda" and hinted that the inquiry may even be expanded. He vowed to sue the White House, if necessary, to obtain the documents he needs. In his three weeks on the job, Jaworski said, he has written four letters to the White House requesting specific documents; unless they are answered within the next couple of weeks, he will take further action. "I don't want any foot-dragging," he warned.

Jaworski also promised that White House pleas of national security would not deter him from a thorough investigation of the White House "plumbers." He said he had been briefed by White House aides on a top-secret national-security matter that was related generally to the Ellsberg break-in and specifically to the plumbers. If the investigation gets into national-security areas, it was agreed, Jaworski would be allowed to evaluate White House arguments by personally inspecting tapes and other material. In most cases, Jaworski said, he would ask for indictments and let the

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defendants prove that their crimes had a legitimate security purpose. "As much as I respect the issue of national security," he told the committee, "I'm not going to be blinded by it."

Jaworski's show of independence impressed the senators, but Cox's former staff had already been won over. Deputy special prosecutor Henry Ruth had already given Jaworski a ringing endorsement before the same committee—and the rest of Cox's army has transferred its respect, if not its affection, to the new chief. The biggest contrast between the two men, staffers say, is in style rather than substance. "The main difference between Archie and Leon would be the difference between New England and Texas," said Ruth. "Basically, they do just as any excellent lawyer would"—and, he added, they reach the same kinds of conclusions.

Flurry: Under Jaworski, the probe has advanced rapidly. "I found matters to be further advanced than I thought they would be," he said, "and we are making substantial progress." Indictments will begin before the New Year; once they are well under way, Jaworski said, "I do expect to go into court myself" on the more challenging cases.

A flurry of indictments could appreciably slow the momentum of both of the special-prosecutor bills that the Senate committee sent to the floor last week. One bill, favored by the White House, would require Congressional approval of an Administration-appointed prosecutor and impose some restrictions on the President's power to fire him. The other bill, co-sponsored by Democratic Senators Philip Hart and Birch Bayh and



AP photos

KIDNAP DRAMA: "Kill me! Kill me!" shouted Edward F. Fisher, 39, as he held a knife to Ellen Sheldon's throat and a store guard aimed a pistol at his head in a Hollywood, Calif., parking lot last week. The tense standoff continued for fifteen minutes. Then Miss Sheldon struggled to her feet; the guard squeezed off one shot—and Fisher was mortally wounded.



with a counterpart in the House, gives the power of appointment and removal to a three-judge panel. The current betting is that Congress will pass the Bayh-Hart bill, Mr. Nixon will veto it and Congress, unable to override, will revert to the weaker measure. At that point, the President is expected to reappoint Jaworski; then, confirmed by Congress, he will go back to work with slightly better job insurance.

While Congress pondered his fate, Jaworski dug in for a long stay. With his wife still in Houston (she will join him early next year), Jaworski lives at a hotel two blocks from his fortresslike office. He has steadfastly shunned the cocktail-party circuit to avoid questions and save time. The greatest hardship, however, is neither his demanding schedule nor his pay cut (resignation from his law firm and corporate directorships cost some \$200,000 a year) but the distance from Washington to his ranch near Austin. Only two months ago, he built a separate office on the ranch. "One of the things that hurts is that I can't get to use it," says Jaworski, who estimates that the chain of indictments, trials and appeals may last two more years. "But I'll get back to it one of these days."

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