

Ehrlichman Meets With Prosecutor

Washington

Former White House official John D. Ehrlichman conferred yesterday with special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski amid reports he is being offered a chance to plead guilty to a single felony charge if he cooperates with the prosecution.

Ehrlichman's chief Washington attorney, John J. Wilson, said the meeting with Jaworski — the first for Ehrlichman — lasted 65 minutes. He refused to discuss what was said.

One source, however, said Jaworski's office is making Ehrlichman the same offer that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell rejected several months ago.

In return for this limited charge, Ehrlichman would have to agree to cooperate with Jaworski in the prosecution of other Watergate figures, according to this source.

It could not be learned if the proposed guilty plea would involve the Watergate coverup or the break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. There were indications that Ehrlichman neither accepted nor rejected any deals yesterday.

Wilson said Ehrlichman

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flew to Washington Sunday from his home in Seattle and plans to depart today. The chief reason for his visit apparently was to confer with Jaworski. Wilson said Ehrlichman did not come to Washington to testify before a federal grand jury nor to talk to the Senate Watergate committee.

"No other meetings (with Jaworski) have been sched-

uled," Wilson said. "I can't rule them out, however. It's a moving situation."

Ehrlichman and two others—David Young and G. Gordon Liddy—are under indictment in Los Angeles for the September, 1971, break-in at the Beverly Hills office of Dr. Lewis Fielding. A federal grand jury in Washington is also investigating this break-in, which Ehrlichman said sprang from national security considerations. Ellsberg at that time had just made public the Pentagon Papers.

Los Angeles charges have been dismissed against a fourth defendant, Egil (Bud) Krogh Jr., a supervisor of the White House "plumbers" unit that included Young and Liddy and that worked under Ehrlichman's general direction.

Dismissal of these charges came in the aftermath of Krogh's guilty plea in federal court in Washington to a charge that he violated Fielding's civil rights.

One source said the pressure being exerted on Ehrlichman by federal prosecutors is related to two developments expected later this month.

The first is Krogh's sentencing by U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, at which time Krogh will make public a lengthy statement of his role in the plumbers unit. This statement will undoubtedly discuss Ehrlichman's role as well.

The second development is a batch of federal indictments in the Watergate case, possibly including the Ellsberg break-in as well as the Watergate coverup.

"The prosecutors are trying to impress upon a small group of people the dire situation that they're in," said one attorney involved in the Watergate case.

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