

# Nixon Heads for New Tape Clash

## Washington

President Nixon refused to turn over requested White House tape recordings and other evidence, and thus is apparently headed for another major clash with the Watergate special prosecutor.

The office of special prosecutor Leon Jaworski reported yesterday that it has received a "lengthy communication from the White House counsel which will require clarification and further discussion between Mr. Jaworski and Mr. St. Clair."

The White House confirmed that a four-page letter had been sent Monday from James D. St. Clair, the White House counsel, to Jaworski. Gerald L. Warren, the President's press spokesman, refused to say anything else about the letter.

However, it was understood that the additional evidence that Jaworski had said he asked for and expected to receive Monday was not delivered by the White House.

Sources familiar with the Watergate investigations indicated that St. Clair's letter notified the special prosecutor that the White House would not turn over the additional materials and presented the reasons for the refusal.

These sources said that if the White House persisted in its refusal to hand over tapes and other materials, Jaworski would probably subpoena the evidence.

The special prosecutor's office is reportedly considering two choices: either subpoenaing the materials before indictments are returned on the Watergate case or causing the subpoenas to be issued when the trials begin. Jaworski has indicated that there will be indictments but has not disclosed the names of those in-

involved. The two sides are not yet deadlocked. Jaworski, who is now in Texas, reportedly will ask for a meeting with St. Clair when he returns later this week to see if the dispute can be resolved.

But if both the special prosecutor and the White House continue on their present course, the result might be the same kind of confrontation that led to the firing of former special prosecutor Archibald Cox and the subsequent resignation of Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson last October.

Monday, Warren said that the White House has "voluntarily" turned over 17 tapes and more than 700 documents to Jaworski's staff. Under questioning, he said that by "voluntary" he meant yielding materials that the special prosecutor specifically asked for.

However, Jaworski disclosed in a television interview Sunday that in December he had to demand materials of the White House "very firmly" before they were turned over.

*New York Times*