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Nixon Refused Compromise On Subpoena for 64 Tapes

Associated Press
Former Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski once offered to reduce his demand for White House tape recordings from 64 to 18 and that Richard M. Nixon had to withhold the information been named an unindicted co-conspirator in the Watergate cover-up case. (SUNDAY)

The compromise was discussed May 5, 1974, more than two months before the Supreme Court ordered Nixon to surrender 64 tapes. Nixon rejected Jaworski's offer shortly after it was made.

The incident was disclosed in the book "Breach of Faith, The Fall of Richard Nixon," by Theodore H. White. Jaworski has confirmed White's account.

Jaworski said he met at the White House with Alexander M. Haig Jr., Nixon staff chief,

and James D. St. Clair, Nixon's chief defense lawyer.

He told them the grand jury had named Nixon an unindicted co-conspirator and that this would be disclosed in a court fight over the prosecutor's subpoena for 64 tapes sought as evidence of the cover-up.

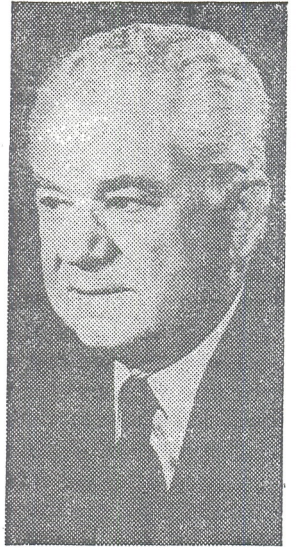
"I told them if I received 18 tapes, we could get along with them," Jaworski said. "The June 23 tapes were on top of the list. Haig asked for a day or two to give the answer."

"The next day I went to U.S. District Court Judge John J.

Sirica and informed him of the discussion. On Tuesday, St. Clair called and said the President was against it. You know from that the apes were devastating." 7 MAY

During three conversations on June 23, 1972, six days after the Watergate break-in, Nixon and H. R. Bob Haldemmn discussed using the Central Intelligence Agency to sidetrack the FBI investigation of the break-in.

Nixon made public the contents of those conversations on Aug. 5, 1974. Four days later he resigned.



LEON M. JAWORSKI
... sought 18 recordings