

State Bar Tells of Its Nixon Probe

Los Angeles

The conduct of President Nixon and five other California lawyers mentioned in the Watergate case has been the subject of an inquiry by the staff of the California State Bar since May, it was confirmed yesterday.

State Bar President Leonard Janofsky emphasized, however, that no formal disciplinary proceedings have been commenced with respect to any of the lawyers.

He named the others involved in the inquiry as John Ehrlichman, Herbert Kalmbach, Robert Mardian, Donald Segretti and Gordon Strachan.

STATEMENT

Janofsky took the unusual step of partially lifting the veil of confidentiality in such matters in a news conference at the Greater Los Angeles Press Club.

He said the State Bar Board of Governors had engaged in "thorough soul-searching" on the subject.

"On balance, we have concluded that more good than harm will come from making a public statement with respect to this matter at this time," he said.

Janofsky would not specifically say whether the State Bar would recommend disbarment of President Nixon if the facts should warrant it.

COMPLAINT

"We intend to treat the President with respect because of the nature of the office," he said. "But we also have an obligation to administer the laws in an even-handed fashion—

irrespective of where it cuts."

Janofsky said the State Bar staff had received a complaint before the Board of Governors decided during the month of May to authorize an inquiry.

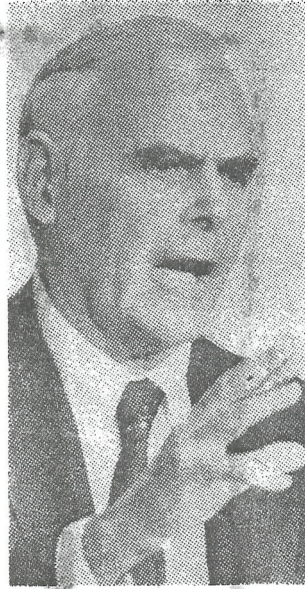
He added that the State Bar has received a number of other complaints in the form of letters from individual lawyers, resolutions signed by a number of lawyers or resolutions forwarded on behalf of a number of lawyers. He could not estimate the total number.

Janofsky said the staff manpower devoted to the inquiry so far amounts to no more than one person a day.

He said the Senate Watergate committee evidence is being monitored and the staff has communicated with the committee, special prosecutor Archibald Cox and prosecuting authorities in Florida and Los Angeles.

Cox pledged cooperation, but pointed out that if the evidence he is developing leads to indictments or trials, it could not be made available to the State Bar until "substantially down the road," Janofsky said.

Los Angeles Times



AP Wirephoto

LEONARD JANOFSKY
President of State Bar