

WXPPost
Nixon Subject of Bar 'Inquiry' AUG 2 1973

By Robert Meyers
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LOS ANGELES, Aug. 1 — The staff of the California Bar Association has been conducting an inquiry into President Nixon and five others mentioned in the Watergate case since May, the association's president said today.

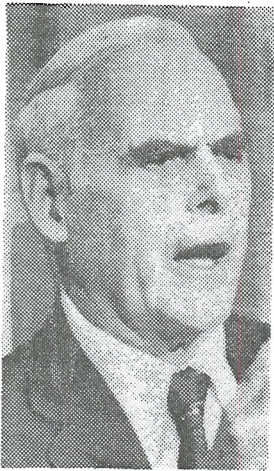
All six are lawyers and members of the state bar.

Leonard S. Janofsky, president of the state bar, said the association's staff received "some complaints" from lawyers in May and, "at about the same time, the board of governors decided to begin an inquiry."

Besides Mr. Nixon, those subject to the inquiry are former domestic affairs adviser John D. Ehrlichman, Mr. Nixon's personal attorney, Herbert W. Kalmach, former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian, Gordon C. Strachan, former aide to ex-chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, and Donald Segretti.

Janofsky said that, "We intend to treat the President with respect because of the nature of the office, but we also have an obligation to administer the laws in an even-handed fashion — irrespective of where it cuts."

"Moral turpitude, dishonesty, or corruption, whether committed during a relationship with a client, or whether resulting in felony or misdemeanor convictions,



LEONARD S. JANOFSKY
... an obligation

are cause for disbarments or suspension," Janofsky said.

There are 38,000 members of the bar in California. Janofsky would not indicate how many complaints from either individuals or groups the board of governors had received.

Janofsky indicated that only one lawyer is conducting the entire inquiry into the activity of the six men.

If the inquiry blossoms into formal proceedings, which are taken to the state Supreme Court, the length of time involved could be as much as two years, one source indicated.

The bar association's proceedings are complex. If the inquiry that Janofsky an-

nounced today determines that there is probable cause for formal proceedings, a step-by-step process will be undertaken with the panels of three lawyers each reviewing the evidence at different stages. If these lawyers find that the charges still have merit, the matter will be lodged with the state Supreme Court. That court will then conduct a new, independent investigation. The state Supreme Court, Janofsky said, alone has authority to disbar or suspend an attorney.

Janofsky said that the state bar staff is monitoring the Senate Watergate committee hearing, and has been in touch with at least three prosecutors, including Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, U.S. Attorney John Briggs in Florida, and Los Angeles District Attorney Joseph P. Busch Jr.

"I want to emphasize strongly that the bar has not prejudged any individual as to guilt or innocence. It has not determined that formal proceedings should be instituted, and it does not intend to imply by this statement that it has done either," Janofsky said.

"Any judgement as to guilt or innocence can only be made at the conclusion of appropriate proceedings conducted in accordance with California law," he said.