

Jaworski Asserts He Got Pledges of Independence

Makes First Appearance in Congress
—Richardson Says White House Ire at Cox Began in Mid-June

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 8—The special Watergate prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, in his first appearance before Congress today, told members of the House that he had taken the job only with "what I consider the most solemn and substantial assurances of my absolute independence."

These assurances, he said, came not directly from President Nixon but from him through Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the White House chief of staff.

Mr. Jaworski told the criminal justice subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee that he had "unqualified assurance" of "absolutely no constraints on my freedom" to seek all evidence, including Presidential files, and use of the courts to force production of documents.

In the Senate, meanwhile, former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson told the Judiciary Committee of longstanding White House irritation and allegations of partisanship against Archibald Cox, who held the job before Mr. Jaworski. The complaints went back to mid-June, he said.

Won't Call It 'Pressure'

He refused to characterize the White House action as "pressure," though it was repeated and resulted in several conferences with Mr. Cox.

He told the committee that J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., one of the President's counselors, had discussed tightening the range

of Mr. Cox's investigation. He quoted Mr. Buzhardt as saying, "If he can't agree to that, we'll have to get rid of him."

Mr. Jaworski, in speaking to reporters after his appearance before the House subcommittee said he had already made requests for Presidential tapes and documents, an issue that ultimately led to Mr. Cox's dismissal and Mr. Richardson's resignation on Oct. 20.

Mr. Jaworski would not say what documents he was seeking, other than to say they were not those publicly sought by Mr. Cox.

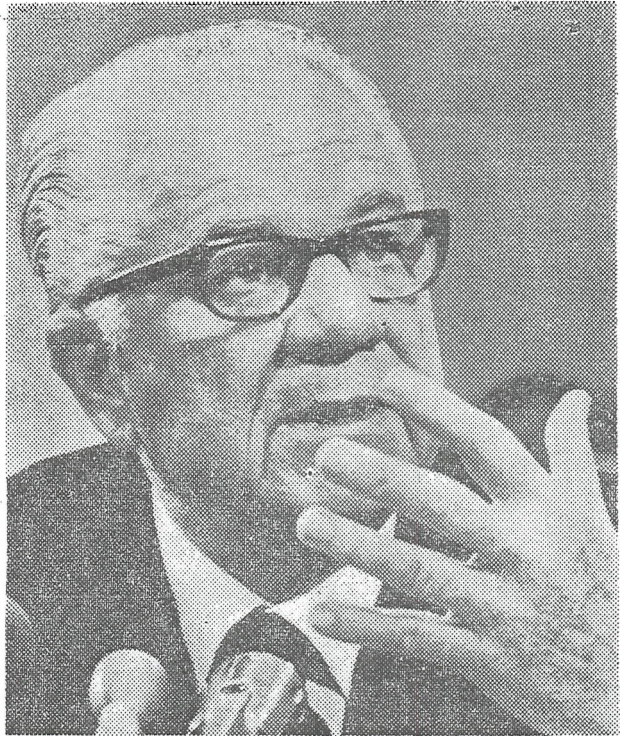
'Within 10 Days'

He said that he sent letters to the White House yesterday and today seeking material and that he had "indicated I would like to have it within 10 days."

Asked how he explained Mr. Nixon's willingness to let him seek Presidential papers after announcing Oct. 26 at a news conference that he would not turn over such papers, Mr. Jaworski said, "Well, he just changed his mind, is the only way I can rationalize it."

During his House testimony Mr. Jaworski said that General Haig telephoned him a week ago Tuesday and asked him to consider taking the job.

He said he had told General Haig he would not be interested unless he had assurances of independence. General Haig, he said, went in to see the President and then told Mr. Jaworski he would have such freedom.



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Leon Jaworski at Senate Judiciary Committee hearing