

Watergate

Costs Soar

Washington

With the final judgments of the Watergate scandals still years away, the government already has spent nearly \$6 million for investigations.

The results so far have been six convictions and six untried indictments, and special prosecutor Leon Jaworski had estimated it may take two more years to complete the process of indictments, trials and appeals.

The \$6 million estimate for Watergate does not include private costs—such as attorneys' fees paid by defendants and witnesses—or a number of intangible government costs, such as manpower expended in the President's formal responses to the various Watergate allegations.

And there are the legal fees and judgments that could result from civil suits against the administration and the President's re-election committee, and the two Republican countersuits filed so far.

The civil suits ask for punitive and actual damages totaling more than \$20 million. It is unrealistic to believe that anywhere near that amount will ever be awarded by the courts, but the plaintiffs' and defendants' legal fees during lengthy trials will likely run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The \$6 million estimate also does not include incalculable costs, such as unrecorded manpower expended by the FBI, Justice Department and other agencies, and intermittent probes conducted by regular grand juries that

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originally were empaneled for other matters.

The most expensive criminal investigation conducted so far has been by the Watergate special prosecutor's office, which is operating on a \$2.8 million congressional appropriation for the fiscal year ending next July 1.

The bulk of the money is being spent for the salaries

of 80 persons, including 38 attorneys. Other major expenses include rental of 15,000 square feet on the ninth floor of an office building, an elaborate security system and travel expenses for staff investigators and witnesses.

An aide to Jaworski said that next year's operating

expense will probably also be close to \$2.8 million. "I've never known anything to go down, but it probably won't be significantly higher," he said.

The Senate Select Watergate committee has received two \$500,000 appropriations so far, and is close to exhausting the second allotment, an administrative official said. The committee is scheduled to continue its investigative phase through December 7, and probably will seek additional operating funds. Staff members will continue to be paid until the committee goes out of existence on February 7.

Another major expense related to Watergate is the \$1 million that the House voted to give the Judiciary committee to conduct its Presidential impeachment inquiry.

The chairman of the committee, Representative Peter Rodino (Dem-N.Y.), said that his funds had been severely drained by the added work of the panel, mostly on the confirmation of Representative Gerald R. Ford as vice president, and that the \$1 million was needed to hire the additional staff necessary for the impeachment inquiry.

Another related expense of approximately \$200,000 a year has been incurred by the White House by increasing the size of Mr. Nixon's legal staff to eight full-time lawyers and three \$150-a-day consultants. Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler has said there will be a further expansion of the legal team to make "more prompt and efficient" responses to Watergate questions.

Before the Watergate disclosures, Mr. Nixon's legal staff consisted of three lawyers, headed by former counsel John W. Dean III.

The costs of jurors' fees alone is \$122,550 through October, and the original

Watergate grand jury, which was empaneled on June 27, 1972, recently received a six-month extension from Congress, with an option for another six months after that.

The second grand jury, impaneled on August 13, is hearing evidence on criminal matters related to the administration, but not directly related to the original Watergate break-in.

Each of the 23 members of the grand juries is paid \$20 a day for the first 30 days of service and \$25 thereafter, meaning that both panels are now costing the government \$1150 a day.

Added to this is the \$20-A-Day fee for witnesses, airline travel expenses for witnesses and the cost of transcribing the testimony. A source in U.S. District Court estimated that court reporting fees have run over \$100,000 so far.

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