

Inquiry Cost Hits \$6 Million;

Watergate

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

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

Although it is impossible to figure what the scandals will have cost the taxpayers when all the bills are in, administrative officials of the principal investigating bodies believe that Watergate may turn out to be the most expensive criminal probe in the nation's history.

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 response to the various Watergate allegations.

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And then there are the legal fees and judgments that could result from six civil suits against the administration and the President's reelection committee, and the two Republican countersuits filed so far. Those costs could far exceed the \$6 million estimated for criminal probes.

The civil suits ask for punitive and actual damages totaling more than \$20 million. While it is unrealistic to believe that anywhere near that amount will ever be awarded by the courts, 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 originally were impaneled 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

Major Inquiry Costs

Following is a list of the major government costs for Watergate-related investigations:

Special prosecutor's office	\$2,800,000
Senate select committee	\$1,000,000
House Judiciary Committee	\$1,000,000
White House attorneys	\$ 232,000
D.C. grand jurors' fees, as of Nov. 1,	\$ 122,550
D.C. grand jury transcribing fees	\$ 100,000
New York trial panel	\$ 19,800
New York grand jury	unknown
Los Angeles grand jury	\$ 2,520
Houston grand jury	unknown
Orlando grand jury	unknown
General Services Administration	\$ 100,000
FBI, Justice Department	unknown
General Accounting Office	unknown
House Banking and Currency Committee	unknown
Identifiable costs	\$5,376,870

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 at 1425 K St. NW, an elaborate security system and travel expenses for staff investigators and witnesses.

An aide to Jaworski said that next year's operating expenses 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 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 Dec. 7, and probably will seek additional operating funds. Staff members will continue to be paid until the committee goes out of existence on Feb. 7.

The salaries of the 80-member staff, which includes 22 attorneys, are about \$80,000 a month, a committee aide said. Other major expenses include travel expenses for witnesses, fees paid to court stenographers and expenses of staff investigators.

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, Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.), said that his funds had been severely drained by the added work of the

panel, mostly on the confirmation hearings of Rep. 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.

Leading the legal team now is J. Fred Buzhardt, special Watergate counsel, who was transferred to the White House from his \$38,000-a-year job with the Defense Department. Other attorneys are on loan to Buzhardt from a number of agencies, including the departments of Housing and Urban Development and Justice.

Their salaries range from \$14,400 to \$36,000 a year.

The highest paid legal adviser in the White House is Leonard Garment, acting counsel, who is paid \$42,500 a year.

Two federal grand juries in the District of Columbia which were impaneled exclusively to investigate Watergate criminal matters met for a total of 129 days

through October, and are still meeting.

The costs of jurors' fees alone is \$122,550 through October, and the original Watergate grand jury, which was impaneled 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 last Aug. 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 \$1,150 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.

Federal grand juries in New York City, Houston and Orlando, Fla., have also taken time out from their regular duties to investigate various aspects of the Watergate scandals, but court officials in those cities said it was impossible to attach cost estimates to the amount of time spent on matters related to the Nixon re-election campaign.

In New York, where former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans and financier Robert Vesco were indicted May 11 on obstruction of justice and false declaration charges in connection with an alleged attempt to influence a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation, a regular grand jury considered the case intermittently for four months while considering other cases, according to a court official.

On Sept. 11, a federal court examined 990 prospective jurors for trial duty in connection with the case, paying a total of \$19,800 in jury fees, a court aide said.

A regular grand jury in Orlando indicted Nixon cam-

campaign operative Donald H. Segretti last May on charges of distributing a phony campaign letter during the Florida presidential primary, and a regular grand jury in Houston has been periodi-

cally considering the laundering of a \$100,000 corporation contribution that was allegedly used to finance the Watergate break-in.

Additionally, a county grand jury in Los Angeles met for a total of seven days before indicting former White House domestic affairs chief John D. Ehrlichman and aides Egil (Bud) Krogh Jr. and David R. Young Jr., who allegedly headed the "plumbers" unit at the time of the break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Thomas McDonald, executive assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles, said he was unable to estimate the cost of that investigation, except that the standard jurors' fees and expenses were paid. Additionally, McDonald said, investigators made several cross-country trips in connection with the case.

The FBI has been in on the investigation of Watergate since the break-in was made, and undoubtedly has incurred major costs. But a spokesman for Clarence Kelley, FBI director, said, "We don't know how much we've spent, and there is no way of determining that."

The FBI is still burdened with much of the special

prosecutor's investigating chores, the spokesman said, but even a cost accounting guess is impossible. "We're spending it anyway. Whether the agents are working on Watergate or not, they are here and are being paid to work on something," he said.

Similarly, the Justice Department has been unable to estimate manpower costs that it has expended in assisting in various phases of the investigation.

The General Services Administration, however, spent more than \$100,000 investigation and reporting on allegations that the government spent \$10 million improving the San Clemente, Calif., and Key Biscayne, Fla., properties of Mr. Nixon, un-

der the guise of security necessities.

And, the General Accounting Office is spending an undetermined amount of money conducting audits of presidential campaign finance committees in all 50 states.

A GAO spokesman said yesterday that if his agency were asked by Congress to give an accounting of the government's expenses of Watergate so far, the GAO would probably have to report that intangible costs spread over many agencies would probably make such an estimate impossible.

But based on appropriated investigating budgets and fixed costs known to have been incurred by some agencies, the GAO official said,

an estimate of \$6 million so far "sounds about right."

The GAO said it has not been asked by any member of Congress to tally the expenses of investigating Watergate.