

New White House 'Leak' Complaints

Washington

The White House accused the office of the Watergate special prosecutor yesterday of responsibility for two news leaks since Leon Jaworski succeeded Archibald Cox as chief of the prosecuting team.

One of the leaks was "staggering," deputy press secretary General L. Warren said. He said he had "no evidence" that Jaworski personally was responsible for the leaks.

Warren's comments came as reporters questioned him about when President Nixon learned that an 18-minute segment of a June 20, 1972, tape was apparently obliterated.

James Doyle, spokesman for the special prosecutor, replied "no comment" when asked about Warren's charges.

Warren's complaint was directed at a syndicated column by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak that was published yesterday. It reported that White House special counsel J. Fred Buzhardt went to Jaworski's office last Wednesday to ask for a delay in releasing the news that the segment of the tape was obliterated. Jaworski refused and the matter was disclosed in U.S. District Court the same day.

The other complaint was

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against a report in the current issue of Time magazine that Jaworski's office is investigating a \$100,000 contribution to last year's re-election campaign from the Seafarers International Union, which the President addressed yesterday.

Warren saw significance in the fact that Time reported an investigation was under way as the union was holding a convention here and the President was addressing it.

"I'm just pointing out a coincidence that I think is very obvious and staggering," Warren said.

Following the President's return to Washington last Tuesday, Mr. Nixon "insisted" that the information about the June 20 tape should be disclosed to the

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prosecutor and to Judge John J. Sirica, Warren said.

On that day, Mr. Nixon addressed the Republican Governors Association in Memphis and said that he did not know of any more information "bombs" about to explode.

Warren said that while the President knew that a portion of the tape was inaudible, he was not certain until his return to Washington that it was one of those subpoenaed.

When he was in Memphis, the President spoke "forthrightly" to the governors, Warren maintained. "There was confusion in the President's mind about whether this was indeed a subpoenaed tape."

Some governors at the conference complained that the President had not "levelled" with them.

Asked why the President had not alerted the governors, Warren asked, what is a "bombshell or shock" in "this atmosphere in Wash-

ington? He said there had been a host of charges against the President and his family, which will be proven false.

"The President has a great desire to see that this information be developed fully and become known," Warren said.

But the White House continues to be concerned about leaks and wants the investigation conducted thoroughly and professionally and in the proper forum, Warren said.

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