

White House To Open Files, Jaworski Says

By George Lardner Jr. and Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writers

Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski said yesterday that the White House has agreed to open its secret files to a systematic search for documents relevant to his investigations.

Many of the documents being sought apparently involve the activities of the White House "plumbers"

and their 1971 break-in at the offices of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Predicting a stepped-up pace to his probes of scandals involving the Nixon administration, Jaworski also asked for appointment of a third federal grand jury to help handle the volume.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge John J. Sirica immediately approved the request and said the new grand jury would be sworn in Jan. 7. It is expected to concentrate on allegations about the financing of last year's presidential campaign and any government favors bestowed on contributors.

The original Watergate grand jury will continue its work on the 1972 Watergate break-in and subsequent cover-up. A second grand jury was assigned last August to look into all other alleged misdeeds involving the Nixon administration, but Jaworski said these assignments were piling up too quickly.

"We project that we have a need for grand jury presentation virtually full-time for the next several months," Jaworski wrote Judge Sirica in asking for another panel to share the work load of the August grand jurors. He said it would be "unduly burdensome" to keep them in session four to five days a week on a regular basis.

In addition to Nixon campaign financing, the August grand jury has been scrutinizing the secret activities of the plumbers and allegations involving the settlement of three Justice Department antitrust suits against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

Speaking to newsmen out-

side the U.S. Courthouse here yesterday morning, Jaworski said he was gratified by the cooperation he is now getting. He said the White House voluntarily turned over nine tapes of presidential conversations last weekend and is considering a request for six more recordings.

"We're getting the kind of cooperation I hoped we'd get," Jaworski said.

He refused to say what the new tapes involved. The Watergate force has been seeking a wide variety of subpoenaed recordings touching on the plumbers, on ITT and on allegations that Mr. Nixon authorized an offer of executive clemency last January to insure the silence of Watergate

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conspirator E. Howard Hunt.

Two subpoenaed Watergate tape recordings were also turned over to Jaworski yesterday morning by Judge Sirica during a 30-minute session in Sirica's chambers.

The judge said he gave the special prosecutor his duplicate recordings of two meetings the President had last March 21 with former White House counsel John W. Dean III and other White House aides, including former chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman.

According to former Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, "all accounts (of the first March 21 meeting) agree that Dean talked about a 'cancer' affecting the presidency. . . . All agree that there was discussion of Hunt's threat to expose his 'seamy' work for the White House unless

he received a considerable sum of money.

"Haldeman testified that it was at this meeting that respondent (Mr. Nixon) indicated that \$1 million easily could be raised; according to Haldeman, however, respondent went on to say that it would not be right to pay the money. This discrepancy," Cox said last August in pressing his subpoena for the Watergate tapes, "is manifestly significant."

Mr. Nixon has said that "it was not until March 21" that information supplied by Dean led him to conclude that there had been a Watergate cover-up. Up to then, he said last May, "I was convinced that there was no cover-up, because I was convinced that no one had anything to cover up."

Besides the two tapes, Sirica said he also gave the special prosecutor Haldeman's notes of a March 22, 1973, meeting with Mr. Nixon and the President's

own four pages of notes concerning a controversial April 15, 1973, meeting with Dean.

The turnover left Sirica with only three subpoenaed tapes to assess. The White House is claiming executive privilege for two of these recordings and a portion of the third. Sirica said he hopes to make his ruling, which can be appealed, by the end of the week.

Jaworski told reporters that he has already started to listen to the subpoenaed tapes now in his possession. He said "everything relevant and material will be turned over" to the Watergate grand jury, probably before Christmas.

"We can hear them quite well," he said of the recordings. "They're in good shape."

Jaworski also told reporters that the search for subpoenaed White House documents, as distinct from tapes, had already started at the Executive Office Building with one of his assistants, Charles Breyer, directing the hunt.

Breyer, a member of the Watergate task force investigating the White House "plumbers," is not expected to begin until today, however. According to Jaworski, he will be working from a prepared list with the assistance of White House special counsel J. Fred Buzhardt

while Secret Service agents stand watch.

If relevant new documents pop up in the files Buzhardt produces, Jaworski indicated, the White House will also be asked to turn over these as well. The arrangement remained somewhat nebulous last evening, but Breyer has apparently been assigned to pick up documents related to other investigations as well as to the plumbers.

The sensitive Watergate-related files, including documents and notes kept by both Haldeman and former domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman, have been kept under close guard by the Secret Service in Room 522 of the Executive Office Building. Jaworski said he saw one cabinet full of documents, including some he asked for and some Cox asked for, on a preliminary visit Monday.

He said it would be a "tremendous process" to sort out the ones that are needed. But, in effect, he said, the White House has "opened the safe."

Deputy White House press secretary Gerald L. Warren put it more cautiously. The search, Warren told reporters, would be restricted to "particularized areas."