

Ex-Nixon Aide

A Plea to Drop Chapin Charges

Washington

The attorney for former Nixon appointments secretary Dwight L. Chapin has asked that the charges against his client be dismissed because special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski has talked too much about the case in public.

Attorney Jacob A. Stein said Jaworski violated the rules of U.S. District Court, the code of professional responsibility and regulations of the Justice Department by discussing the case on national television.

On ABC's "Issues and Answers" February 2, Jaworski said "we have found no basis of a perjury charge" against John W. Dean III, who is scheduled to be a major witness in Chapin's trial.

Chapin is charged with four counts of lying to a grand jury.

"If we believe John Dean's veracity was subject to question, we will not use him as a witness," Jaworski told his interviewers.

Stein told the court that if it does not dismiss the case, it should "at the very least" bar the government from using Dean as a witness against Chapin.

"Persons charged by the government with criminal offenses are entitled to raise their defenses without having the prosecutor make his rebuttal on national television and radio," Stein said in his motion to U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, filed Tuesday.

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