

Jaworski Forecasts Action On Indictments by Friday

Prosecutor Says He Believes His Office Knows the Full Watergate Story— Further Disclosures Are Expected

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 — Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski said today that he believed his office now knew the full story of the Watergate affair and predicted that major indictments in the cover-up phase of the case would come as early as Thursday or Friday.

He said in an interview that the indictments were being held up until a jury was sequestered in the trial in New York of two former Cabinet officers, John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans.

He also said that once a number of indictments had been handed up, it might be easier for the House Judiciary Committee to obtain information from his office for the impeachment investigation.

Mr. Jaworski, in an interview with The New York Times, declined to describe what had motivated participants in the Watergate affair but quoted the British historian Lord Acton, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

He said that the full Watergate story would come out as indictments were handed up and trials undertaken. The case has not "peaked," he said, and

there will be fresh disclosures.

The prosecution, he said, has enough evidence to indict in a number of cases. However, he added, he will still seek more evidence once indictments have been handed up. Additional documents will be needed, he said, to help nail down cases and to prove the innocence of some of those thought to be involved.

Mr. Jaworski's latest request for documents and tape recordings was sent to the White House Jan. 9 and was refused.

Mr. Jaworski said today that when he turned over to the impeachment investigation a list describing 700 pages of documents and 17 tape recordings from the White House, it was done with the consent of the President's lawyers.

Most of the court action thus far in the Watergate affair has involved negotiated pleas. Mr. Jaworski said that he had not been trying to "twist arms" but instead had been responding when lawyers for possible defendants had approached his office.

He would not say who might be indicted but did say that lawyers for Charles W. Colson,

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a former White House speechwriter, had sent him a number of memos on why Colson should not be indicted. John J. Wilson, lawyer for H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, former top aides at the White House, said that he thinks both men should face court action in the Watergate affair.

Former Attorney General Mitchell and Commerce Secretary Stans are on trial in New York on charges regarding a \$200,000 cash gift to President Nixon's re-election campaign of 1972.

Below these men, who worked in the White House, are the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and a number of other figures, many of whom appeared during the Senate Watergate hearings last summer.

Mr. Jaworski said today that he would like to try one of the Watergate cases personally. He also said that he was thinking about writing a book on his Watergate experiences.

He also cast light on Mr. Nixon's disclosure last night that he had been invited to appear before one of the Watergate grand juries.

The prosecutor said that the request had come from the grand jury and not from the special prosecutor's office.

Vladimir N. Pregelj, foreman of the grand jury empaneled on June 5, 1972, sent a letter to the President on Jan. 30 requesting his appearance.

The matter had been discussed by lawyers, and Mr. Pregelj, in his letter, said that written answers by the President would not be sufficient. He said that they had been "less than satisfactory" in the past.

The grand jury is the same one that heard evidence in the trial of seven men charged with the burglary at the Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate complex.

Written Statement

Mr. Stans never appeared before the grand jury in that investigation but instead submitted a written statement.

The White House turned down the request on Jan. 31 in a letter from James D. St. Clair, Mr. Nixon's lawyer, citing the need to preserve the independence of the office of the Presidency.

Mr. Jaworski said that the jury foreman thought the letter received from the White House to be a historic one. Mr. Pregelj, who works at the Library of Congress, had a copy made and slipped it in a newspaper he was planning to take home, Mr. Jaworski said.

However, he threw away a part of the paper and inadvertently threw his historic letter away with it.

Mr. Jaworski did not discuss the possible indictment of the President. In the past, he has said that he did not think a President could be indicted while in office.

The matter is one of debate among constitutional authorities, and the attitude at the special prosecutor's office has been to let the House impeachment investigation deal with matters concerning the President.

Mr. Jaworski would also not discuss the disputed White House tapes being examined by a six-member panel of experts for authenticity and integrity.

After wide speculation about the tapes' authenticity, Judge John J. Sirica of United States District Court last week ordered silence on all sides.

The panel of experts was jointly chosen by the White

House and Mr. Jaworski's staff and appointed by Judge Sirica.

The White House asked the Stanford Research Institute on Jan. 20 to undertake a study of the tapes, apparently dissatisfied with the panel's findings that one of the tapes contained erasures and rerecordings.

Dr. Michael Hecker, a senior research engineer at the institute's sensory sciences research center, has been assigned the job. A spokesman for the institute said that it had been doing "experimental work" and "providing technical cooperation to the White House."

The indictments this week are expected to center on the original Watergate break-in, on

those who might have had prior knowledge of it and those who worked in the subsequent cover-up.

It is one of five major areas that the special prosecutor has been examining. The four others are the so-called "dirty tricks" that involved campaign sabotage and espionage against rivals in the 1972 Presidential campaign, illegal campaign contributions, the activities of the special investigation unit called the "plumbers" and the investigation into International Telephone & Telegraph Corporation's dealings with the Nixon Administration.

Mr. Jaworski said today that the I.T.T. case had been the slowest to develop.