

Jaworski Got Nixon Tax Data Weeks Ago--Saxbe

By Margaret Gentry
Associated Press

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said yesterday that information concerning the preparation of President Nixon's tax returns was sent to special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski several weeks or even months ago.

But Saxbe told reporters that to his knowledge, Jaworski is not involved in an investigation of Nixon's own role in preparing his returns from 1969 through 1972.

He said he has no information on whether Internal Rev-

had requested the earlier trial date, said, "I'm very happy."

"So are we," said Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor Richard Davis.

entire Service Commissioner Donald Alexander asked Jaworski to initiate the probe, as reported by the New York Times yesterday.

Under questioning at his weekly press briefing, Saxbe repeated an earlier statement that information involving 12 individuals and concerning the tax return preparation is in Jaworski's hands.

He had said Tuesday that one of those is Frank DeMarco, the lawyer who prepared Mr. Nixon's returns. At one point, he said he hadn't meant to say that but at another point he affirmed that DeMarco is involved.

Saxbe's statements were the first indication that the tax material had been delivered to Jaworski some time ago, rather than as part of the IRS's recent report to Mr. Nixon that he owes more than \$460,000. Mr. Nixon has agreed to pay the deficiency plus interest.

"This goes back to the time of the original beginning of Mr. Jaworski. This goes back to when he took over, November whatever it was," Saxbe said.

He said Jaworski recently asked him for an opinion about whether an investigation of the 12 individuals on Mr. Nixon's tax problems was with the authority of the special prosecutor.

"We felt that it was clearly within his area of responsibility," the Attorney General said.

He repeated that the matters were "things that arose beginning clear back when I came on board and the dozen people I mentioned were the total of this. Most of these people are under indictment, some have been tried, and I felt it was just a part of the total investigation and that it couldn't be held up."

Asked whether Alexander initiated the probe, Saxbe replied, "if he has, I don't know about it."

Earlier, and IRS spokesman declined to comment on a report that the IRS had requested a grand jury investigation of possible criminal conspiracy in the preparation of Nixon's tax returns.