

Saxbe Says Jaworski Is Secure in Job

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said yesterday that Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski is secure in his job and will not be fired.

"No one can fire him except me, and I have no intention to do so," Saxbe said.

He said he has not discussed the matter with Jaworski or with anyone in the White House. He spoke to reporters after a Senate hearing on warrantless wiretaps.

Jaworski complained to the Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this week that White House lawyer James D. St. Clair was trying to undermine his independence by challenging his right to take President Nixon to court to secure evidence.

The issue arose during a closed hearing before U.S. District Court Judge John J. Srica on a motion by St. Clair to quash a subpoena from Jaworski for the tapes for 64 presidential conversations.

St. Clair argued that, as an employee of the executive branch, Jaworski had no standing to sue the President. Jaworski said the President had granted him complete independence, including the right to seek tapes and documents in court.

Nixon raised a similar argument last October when he ordered the dismissal of then-Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox during a battle over a subpoena from Cox for nine White House tapes.

Cox was fired by Solicitor General Robert H. Bork, who became acting Attorney General after then-Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and his chief deputy, William Ruckelshaus, resigned rather than obey Mr. Nixon's order to fire the special prosecutor.