

# Jaworski's Charge

Washington

Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski said yesterday that John N. Mitchell and John D. Ehrlichman "had extensive knowledge" of the Watergate break-in even as they told FBI agents that all they knew came from reading newspapers.

He said they lied as part of "an extensive pattern of criminal actions," in trying to bottle the truth about Watergate, adding that their conduct represented "the perversion of government functions."

Mitchell, Ehrlichman and four others are scheduled to be tried September 9 on conspiracy charges in the Watergate coverup. A seventh defendant, Charles W. Colson, pleaded guilty to another charge Monday and the indictment against him in the coverup case will be dropped.

Jaworski's statement was

in an extensive filing of legal documents answering claims by the defendants that their cases should be dismissed on various grounds, that they should have separate trials and that the indicting grand jury was sitting improperly.

Mitchell and Ehrlichman, each also charged with three counts of lying, contended that one charge of making false statements to the FBI should not have been brought. They said the statute under which they were charged covers false statements "made in non-investigative situations."

Jaworski said Ehrlichman suggested in his brief that "no criminal investigator worthy of the name" would rely on the false denials of knowledge.

"On the contrary," Jaworski said, "it was quite natural for FBI agents interviewing the defendants to assume that men of their

stature would have no involvement in the criminal activities under investigation and would be eager to disclose any information they might have . . . so as to assist in upholding the laws of the government in whose service they had been or were so prominently engaged."

Mitchell, a former attorney general, was interviewed by agents on July 5, 1972 — 2½ weeks after the break-in at Democratic Party headquarters. Ehrlichman, then President Nixon's domestic counselor, was interrogated July 21.

"The government is prepared to prove that at the time of their respective FBI interviews, each defendant had extensive knowledge of the facts surrounding the Watergate break-in, knowledge which far exceeded that of the investigators themselves," Jaworski said in his legal papers.

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