

Nixon Made No Immunity Deals, Jaworski Says

Washington

Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski stated after President Nixon's resignation speech last night that no deals had been either made or offered that would have given the President immunity from prosecution after he leaves office.

"There has been no agreement or understanding of any sort between the President or his representatives and the special prosecutor relating in any way to the President's resignation," Jaworski said in a statement issued by his office.

Jaworski's words, combined with the fact that Mr. Nixon made no mention of the immunity issue in his address to the nation, left unresolved, at least for the moment, the prospect that Mr. Nixon might be indicted

and stand trial for crimes stemming from the Watergate scandals.

Mr. Nixon did not ask for any assurances of immunity from Jaworski before his speech, and Jaworski offered none.

"Although I was informed of the president's decision this afternoon," Jaworski's statement said, "my office did not participate in any way in the President's decision to resign."

Jaworski met with General Alexander M. Haig Jr., the White House chief of staff, earlier yesterday, but that session was said to have been merely for the purpose of informing the special prosecutor of what Mr. Nixon would be doing later on in the evening.

Earlier yesterday there

were moves in both houses of Congress to grant Mr. Nixon immunity from prosecution, but they failed for lack of support.

Senator Edward W. Brooke (Rep-Mass.) and Representative John Buchanan (Rep-Ala.) introduced resolutions that would have had Congress express the "sense" that Mr. Nixon should not be subject to prosecution on leaving office today.

Many members took the position that on resignation Mr. Nixon should be liable for prosecution, just as any other citizen, and leave it to the courts to decide the legal issues.

There was the additional sentiment of, as it was phrased by one Democratic senator, "How can I recon-

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cile all those other guys in the bastille and the chief sitting on the beach."

Yet others agreed with Brooke who said "stepping down from the nation's highest office and sparing the nation a long and harmful trial would be sufficient punishment."

House Speaker Carl Albert announced last night after Mr. Nixon's resignation that impeachment proceedings will "come to a halt."

Albert's statement indicated that he had rejected a proposal by Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield that impeachment and a Senate trial continue regardless of whether Mr. Nixon quit.

But Albert added that the House Judiciary Committee "will have to make its report back to the House for it to take some action on it." He did not say what kind of action he expected in the House.

Starting at noon today, when Mr. Nixon becomes a private citizen, he will be liable to indictment should a grand jury indict him. The Watergate Grand Jury will continue to hear evidence on the scandal for four more months.

It already has named Mr. Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator in the coverup of the Watergate case for which six former White House aides were scheduled to go on trial September 9.

It also is possible that now that the impeachment-resignation issue is settled,

Mr. Nixon might appear as a witness in that trial, as well as in other Watergate-related cases.

The events of the day also left unresolved other questions relating to the Watergate case. Jaworski was appointed by Mr. Nixon, and could be removed by President Ford but only with the consent of the congressional leadership.

Thus, it might be difficult for Ford to order Jaworski to offer immunity to Mr. Nixon if the special prosecutor chose not to do so.

In his speech, Mr. Nixon gave no hint of his views on the immunity issue. In referring to Watergate, he said: "If some of my judgments were wrong — and some were wrong — they were made in what I believed at the time to be the best interest of the nation."

Mr. Nixon's potential legal problems are in at least three areas:

- Conspiracy to obstruct justice in the Watergate coverup, for which six aides are awaiting trial.

- His attempted use of the Internal Revenue Service against his political enemies that would be a violation of Section 7212 of the Internal Revenue Code,

which makes it a felony for anyone "corruptly" to attempt to "obstruct or impede" its administration.

- Potential charges of tax evasion stemming from the personal tax returns that Mr. Nixon filed while serving as the nation's chief executive.

In addition, Mr. Nixon

might face the possibility of being charged with crimes arising from the activities of the plumbers unit, possibly in the area of civil rights violations.

All problems of potential criminal liability would become moot, however, if Ford were to pardon Mr. Nixon after the vice president assumes office today. On taking office Ford would have the power to grant pardons for any federal crimes that had been committed, whether or not the person involved had been formally charged.

Yet, Ford could not pardon Mr. Nixon for civil, as opposed to criminal, actions.

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