

Saxbe Says It's Up to Jaworski

Washington

Attorney General William B. Saxbe said yesterday he told President Ford that it is up to special Watergate prosecutors to decide whether to bring criminal charges against former President Nixon.

Saxbe said Mr. Ford made no direct response at their hour-long meeting yesterday but "I got the feeling that it will just run its course, that he has no intention of intervening one way or the other."

The special Watergate prosecutor has made no decision on the matter and is not expected to in the near future, a spokesman said later.

Saxbe said he told Mr. Ford the decision "was in

Mr. Jaworski's arena, and this would just have to run its course."

Saxbe also said Mr. Ford asked him to continue as head of the Justice Department, and said he agreed to do so.

A grand jury named Mr. Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator at the time it indicted his former close advisers on obstruction of justice counts in the Watergate coverup.

Saxbe said the possibility that Mr. Ford could pardon Mr. Nixon was not discussed during their meeting.

Saxbe said he never had that kind of session with Mr. Nixon, who chose him as his fifth attorney general last December.

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