

Needed Tapes Selected by Prosecutors

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Watergate prosecutors yesterday gave the White House a secret list of the tapes and documents they think they need to follow through on their investigations of the Nixon administration.

Aides to Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski insisted they were not requesting a turnover at this point, but simply responding to inquiries from President Ford's advisers about the present "Scope of our needs."

The prosecutors are still negotiating with the White House in an effort to modify the Ford administration's agreement to give former President Nixon complete control over the official tapes and documents compiled during his term of office.

In both the Senate and the House, steps to preserve Watergate-related information for the public and to secure a final report from Jaworski on Mr. Nixon's involvement in his investigations also built up stream.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nixon's former chief of staff, Alexander M. Haig Jr., told reporters in New York that the former President had made arrangements just before he resigned last month to truck away his White House papers.

According to United Press International, Haig said many of the documents were destined for the "burn bag." But he added that all outgoing Presidents have taken similar steps and said there was "nothing spooky" about it.

Haig, UPI said, basically confirmed reports that Mr. Nixon had trucks waiting at the Southwest gate of the White House and a plane standing by to transfer his tapes and papers to San Clemente, Calif., when "hold" was put on the move. Haig told reporters that the transfer was halted by a request from Jaworski's office.

Since Sept. 8, when President Ford granted Mr. Nixon a blanket pardon for any crimes he may have committed in office, the special prosecutor has been faced with increasing calls for a full report on the former President's involvement in alleged misdeeds that the prosecutors have been investigating.

Jaworski, however, has taken the tentative position that he cannot do so without explicit congressional authorization.

Senate Democratic Whip Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.) urged a meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee "to determine if the public interest

would best be served" by giving Jaworski that authority.

Byrd and seven other members of the Judiciary Committee had maintained that the independent charter granted the special prosecutor's office last year was sufficient.

The Senate majority whip suggested a meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee in a letter to Chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) after Jaworski disagreed. Byrd also called it "imperative that all documents and tapes of the former President that are under the custody of President Ford" remain here in Washington until this issue is resolved.

Rep. William L. Hungate (D-Mo.), chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, said yesterday that he has directed similar requests to both Mr. Ford and Jaworski.

Hungate's subcommittee will open hearings Tuesday on some 13 proposed resolutions prompted by the Nixon pardon, including three that would require Jaworski to make public the results of his inquiries regarding the former President.

Another resolution would call on Mr. Ford to answer a series of congressional queries about the pardon.

Mr. Nixon himself has been subpoenaed as a witness in the forthcoming Watergate cover-up trial by former White House Aide John D. Ehrlichman, but the former President's lawyers have already maintained that he is too sick to give even a sworn deposition in an unrelated civil suit.

Ehrlichman's lawyers said yesterday that Mr. Nixon may similarly be unavailable for the cover-up trial. Calling Mr. Nixon's "personal appearance . . . indispensable to Mr. Ehrlichman's defense," they asked for a 60-to-90-day delay in the trial, which is now scheduled to start Oct. 1.

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica has already made plain his determination to start the trial without further delay. At a short afternoon hearing yesterday, Sirica also quashed a subpoena issued by Ehrlichman's lawyers for a long list of White House records, including "all tape recordings of presidential conversations involving a discussion of 'the Watergate matter'."

Watergate prosecutors protested that the subpoena was too vague and, in any event, invalid because Sirica had not approved it.