

SFChronicle

Jaworski's

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Plea on Nixon

Checkup

Washington

Special prosecutor Leon Jaworski suggested yesterday that the U.S. District Court send a team of physicians to San Clemente to determine how ill former President Nixon might be.

He made the suggestion to Judge John J. Sirica in opposing a defense motion asking a delay for two or three months of the Watergate coverup conspiracy trial now scheduled to begin October 1.

The health issue had been raised in a motion to delay filed by John Ehrlichman, former assistant to the President for domestic affairs. Ehrlichman argued that Mr. Nixon might be too ill to appear as a defense witness and should be given time to recover.

Sirica did not deal with Jaworski's suggestion for an examination of the ex-President and instead merely turned down the motion for a delay without comment.

An aide to the judge said the question of Mr. Nixon's health still remains to be considered. A pretrial conference is scheduled for Tuesday, at which time it may be discussed.

The U.S. Court of Appeals, meanwhile, upheld Sirica in turning down six other appeals to delay the trial. At least one defense lawyer said he might go to the U.S. Supreme Court for

a delay. The appeals generally centered on pretrial publicity.

Mr. Nixon is reported to be troubled by phlebitis, a vein inflammation, in his left leg. Reports from California said Mr. Nixon will be hospitalized on Monday.

Mr. Nixon's lawyers have cited his health as a reason for declining to give a deposition in a lawyer's office as part of a separate civil suit. He was to appear next Tuesday in Santa Ana, Calif., but his lawyers have asked the subpoena for his appearance be quashed.

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New York Times