

How Jaworski explained his resignation

WASHINGTON— Leon Jaworski resigned yesterday as special Watergate prosecutor, saying the investigations which led to the resignation of President Nixon and the indictment of his top aides were nearly complete.

In one of two letters to Atty. Gen. William Saxbe, Jaworski emphatically rejected suggestions that he try to indict Nixon as a means of challenging the legality of the pardon granted the former president by President Ford.

Without specifying who had made such suggestions, Jaworski wrote to Saxbe:

"I think it proper that I express to you my views on this subject to dispel any thought that there may be some relation between my resignation and that issue."

"For me to procure an indictment of Richard M. Nixon for the sole purpose of generating a purported court test on the legality of the pardon would constitute a spurious proceeding in which I had no faith; in fact, it would be tantamount to unprofessional conduct and violative of my responsibility as prosecutor and officer of the court."

Jaworski submitted his resignation effective Oct. 25.

The 69-year-old Texan sent the letters to Saxbe the day after a jury was seated in the trial of five former Nixon administration and campaign aides charged with having

—Turn to Page 14, Col. 3

conspired to block the investigation of the Watergate breakin.

He told Saxbe that with the start of the trial his staff "is beginning to address itself to the completion of remaining investigations and to such prosecutions as are still to be conducted.

"The bulk of the work entrusted to the care of our responsibilities as remain unfilled can well be completed under the leadership of another special prosecutor."

Jaworski recommended Henry S. Ruth, deputy special prosecutor, to be his successor.

Jaworski, a senior partner in a Houston law firm that is fourth largest in the nation, has never made any secret of his wish to return to Texas as soon as his work was done.

"I'll tell you that I'm certainly not going to stay with it any longer than I'm needed," he said in one interview.

At the White House, Press Secretary Ronald Nessen said "the President feels very deep gratitude to Mr. Jaworski for his dedicated service in office.

"The President realizes that Mr. Jaworski accepted this appointment at a very critical time and he accepted the appointment at extreme personal sacrifice to himself." He said Saxbe will select a replacement for Ja-

"He came down there with the intention of really leaving sooner than he did, and he thought he could just get the job done. He's done most of the work that needs to be done," Saxbe said.

Saxbe said he would "certainly have to consider his recommendation" that Ruth be appointed to take over as special prosecutor. Saxbe said Ruth "has worked well with Mr. Jaworski."

John J. Wilson, attorney for H.R. Haldeman, former White House staff chief and a defendant in the cover-up trial, called Jaworski "a fine gentleman. He's a good lawyer. He's always treated us very fairly."

Wilson said he doubted Jaworski's departure would have any effect on the cover-up trial. Opening arguments in that case are scheduled for tomorrow.

Jaworski was named special prosecutor on Nov. 1, 1973, during a turbulent time in the Nixon administration.

worski before Oct. 25.

Nessen said, he had "heard or seen nothing to indicate any change in the special prosecutor's office." That was a reference to continuing the role of the special prosecutor.

Saxbe, who was in Mechanisburg, Ohio, said of Jaworski, "He's been very confident. He's had a very difficult job and he's done it well."