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Connally and Nixon Tax Cases Pending on Jaworski Successor

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 18—When the special Watergate prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, announced his resignation last Saturday, effective Oct. 25, he said that the "bulk" of the investigations was over.

He was not specific, but the indications were that a number of long-running investigations would be ended with no indictments.

Whatever decisions are made will be up to Mr. Jaworski's successor.

The outgoing special prosecutor recommended his deputy, Henry S. Ruth Jr., for the job. President Ford's press secretary, Ron Nessen, said today that Mr. Ruth was being given "strong consideration."

"He comes highly recommended," Mr. Nessen said, adding that the President and Attorney General William B. Saxbe planned to meet on the matter.

Unless the successor decides to head off in new directions, most areas of the investigation will have been covered when he takes over.

The mere passage of time and lack of indictments point to two of these areas where little further action is expected: the investigation into the 18.5-minute buzzing found on a key White House tape recording and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation case.

The special prosecutor's office has continued to bring a few cases involving illegal corporate campaign contributions and almost all of these resulted in negotiated guilty pleas.

Exact Status Not Clear

Investigations leading to possible indictments are known to be continuing into wiretapping, alleged misuse of Government agencies, the activities of former President Richard M. Nixon's friend, C. G. Rebozo, the handling of Mr. Nixon's income taxes and the alleged sale of ambassadorships to heavy campaign contributors.

In addition, the special prosecutor's office still has the bribery trial of former Secretary of the Treasury John B. Connally to handle along with a number of appeals.

Obviously a major task was to determine Mr. Nixon's role in Watergate. This led to impeachment hearings, Mr. Nixon's resignation and his pardon.

Also, the other major event of the entire affair, the Watergate cover-up conspiracy trial, is proceeding.

Mr. Jaworski said when he announced his resignation that "the bulk of the work entrusted to the care" of his office had now been discharged.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact status of the other cases still to be decided by the prosecutor's office.

True to the guidelines for all Government prosecutors, Mr. Jaworski has had to do his work in a secretive, cautious way that blocks comment on future actions.

The Watergate case has been the subject of televised Senate hearings, televised impeachment hearings and more than two years of heavy press coverage. Such coverage has made Mr. Jaworski's task, and that of Archibald Cox who preceeded him, both more difficult and more subject to public comment than the ordinary criminal investigation.

Because of these problems, the level of secrecy at the special prosecutor's office has been unusually high and leaks of information unusually low.

When the last investigation has run its course, with the major trials over, the special prosecutor is required to issue a final report. Presumably after that report, now scvheduled foı next spring, the remaining appeals and other business will be turned back to the Justice Department for final action.

Several Other Points

However, there are several points that may not be in that report—points the special prosecutor has already made from simple lack of action or outright refusal to act. These include the following:

¶Both Mr. Cox and Mr. Jaworski apparently have accepted the Justice Department's general position that it was a victim of the alleged Watergate cover-up, rather than a participant in that cover-up in that the agency was frustrated in its inquiry by the cover-up itself. Two former Attorney- General, John N. Mitchell and Richard G. Kleindienst, and the head of the department's Criminal Division, Henry E. Petersen, all were major players in the Watergate events, along with L. Patrick Gray 3d, former acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

¶Mr. Jaworski avoided a major constitutional test over whether a sitting President can be indicted for a crime, turning evidence against Mr. Nixon over to an impeachment inquiry instead as the most practical and intellectually honest way to proceed against Mr. Nixon.

¶He also rejected a constitutional test of President Ford's pardon, which was granted before Mr. Nixon was alleged to have committed a crime. Mr. Jaworski said the Constitution and a Supreme Court ruling on the matter "are so clear, in my opinion, as not to admit of doubt." Some scholars have differed.

¶At some point, a decision was made not to pursue each infraction of the law, but instead to concentrate prosecutorial efforts on the major figures with major solid cases. For example, former Lieut. Gov. Ed Reinecke of California was convicted of perjury for telling a lie to back up statements made by Mr. Mitchell to a Senate committee. Mr. Mitchell was never indicted for his statement, but has been indicted on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice in the cover-up case.

Mr. Jaworski's resignation, a spokesman for the special prosecutor said, was dictated only by his feeling that the bulk of the case was over and a desire to return to Texas.