

## Unusual Working Ties With Prosecutor

# Haig 'Sold' Jaworski on Job

By Ronald J. Ostrow  
Los Angeles Times

Washington

Leon Jaworski was persuaded by former White House chief of staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. to serve as Watergate special prosecutor and over the succeeding nine months enjoyed an unusual working relationship with Haig.

Jaworski also disclosed in an interview that he met secretly with Haig at the White House aide's home on August 8 where Haig advised him President Nixon was going to resign within hours.

Jaworski is leaving as special prosecutor Friday to return to his Texas ranch.

Haig resigned his White House post last month and was named NATO commander by President Ford,

a post he will assume later this year.

"It would be easy to 'lame Haig,' for the White House's resistance to the Watergate investigation, Jaworski said. "But you must remember the former President took over in January as far as Watergate went. It was Mr. Nixon calling the shots."

"So far as I know," Jaworski said, "Al Haig never misrepresented anything to me. He and I had a very peculiar rapport. He talked plainly and bluntly. I couldn't help but like his manner, frankness and candor."

In pinpointing Haig as the man most responsible for his becoming Watergate prosecutor, Jaworski recalled an hour-long phone call the two men had after Mr. Nixon fired Archibald Cox as special prosecutor

just a year ago.

Haig "spoke of the almost revolutionary state of the country and said he was going to put the patriotic monkey on my back," Jaworski said. "I said the job didn't have the independence that would be necessary and he said, 'we'll give you the independence you want. The least you can do is come up here.' He sent a plane for me the next morning."

Late last year, Jaworski recalled, he discussed the March 21, 1973, White House tape with Haig — the recording in which Mr. Nixon repeatedly acknowledged that secret payments to Watergate conspirator T. Howard Hunt Jr. were "blackmail."

Haig "wasn't trying to play anything down," Jaworski said, adding that

Haig voiced "deep concern" over what the recording revealed.

"Al was distressed, but he did not think it showed any criminality," Jaworski said. "He was told that by members of the White House counsel's office."

Jaworski would not specify who gave Haig that assessment — one that Jaworski found untenable.

"I told him he should get the best criminal lawyer in the country and have him listen to the tape," Jaworski said.

He added that he did not think Haig was aware of other incriminating evidence that had been developed on Mr. Nixon by the special prosecutor's office.

Recalling the final events leading to Mr. Nixon's resignation, Jaworski told of an

August 5 phone call he received from Haig in which he told him the June 23, 1972, recording that Jaworski had been seeking "divulged some things that showed the (then) President's culpability."

"I was out of town and got (another) call from Haig. He said 'You ought to come back,'" Jaworski said. "I returned the next day (August 8) and we met at Haig's home.

"We met there because the White House was surrounded" by reporters. "If I was seen entering the White House, everybody would have said the President and I were plea bargaining."

Jaworski said he began the conversation at Haig's home, saying: "Al, do we have an understanding that we're not going to have any understanding?" Signaling

he would engage in no third party negotiations.

"He said, 'yes,' and then told me the President was going to resign."