

Jaworski Says Tapes Will Tell All

Washington

Special prosecutor Leon Jaworski said yesterday that, despite President Ford's pardon of former President Nixon, the public will learn the whole story of Watergate during the cover-up trial of former Attorney General John Mitchell and his co-defendants.

It will come out through the White House tapes, he said.

Jaworski also said he has an agreement with President Ford that none of the tapes or documents will be sent to California as origi-

nally agreed by the White House and the former president.

Mr. Nixon has sued to force Mr. Ford to live up to that agreement.

Jaworski, interviewed on the NBC program "Meet the Press," did not say how long his agreement for custody of the Nixon tapes and documents will remain in force.

He implied, however, that the period will be lengthy.

"I would like to see all the tape recordings made public during the trial and I think you will see all the tape

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recordings made public during the trial," he said.

The trial is expected to continue at least through January.

Moreover, he added, "If all 64 recordings are not used, I'd like them to come out."

He was then asked if there was a danger that the tapes would be shipped to Nixon in California, thus frustrating full publicity, and replied:

"I have an agreement that nothing will be sent, whether it's tapes or documents."

Jaworski, who is leaving as special prosecutor on Friday, was asked if he thought it fair for Mitchell and other subordinates to be tried while Mr. Nixon escaped. Why, a questioner continued, did he not move for an indictment of the former president before Mr. Ford pardoned him?

"I couldn't have done it," Jaworski replied, "because I would have completely messed up the Mitchell trial."

He disputed a contention that such an indictment would have delayed Mr.

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Ford's granting of the pardon. On the contrary, he said, "it would have spurred on his efforts to grant the pardon."

Jaworski said he was not consulted in advance about granting the pardon and declined to say whether he thought it right. He said he talked with General Alexander Haig, then White House chief of staff, at noon on the day the pardon was granted and was informed then about it.

"I told Haig I was making no promises expressed or implied," he said.

"I have refused to divulge my own beliefs," he said, as



UPI Telephoto

LEON JAWORSKI
On 'Meet the Press'

to whether the pardon was justified. "I don't know if it's going to be of any material consequence. Through the evidence at the Mitchell trial, you're going to have the story of Watergate."

But he said "no" briskly when asked if he agreed with Mr. Ford's public reasons for granting it. "He put it on the basis of the national interest."

Because the pardoning power is exclusively the President's, he said, "I couldn't have challenged it."

Asked whether he thought he should have been consulted by Mr. Ford about the pardon, Jaworski said, "I think I should have been. I wasn't."

Jaworski said he didn't know whether there would be any indictments over the erasure of an 18-minute segment of one of the Watergate tapes, adding "the grand jury has not adjourned."

He said that, other than obstruction of justice, his investigations had not uncovered enough evidence in other areas, including tax evasion, to indict Mr. Nixon.

Associated Press