

## Foresaw 'Day of Reckoning'

## Jaworski Says He Knew a Year Ago That Nixon Was Not Telling Truth

By Jay Mathews

Washington Post Staff Writer

Former Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski says he was certain of Richard M. Nixon's involvement in the Watergate cover-up eight months before Nixon resigned the presidency.

"I had to witness former President Nixon getting up before the American people and talking differently from what I knew the facts to be," Jaworski said in an interview in the year-end issue of People magazine. "It was very difficult to keep quiet. But I knew that there would be a day of reckoning."

Jaworski said he knew of Nixon's guilt "in my own mind by late in December" of 1973. He said he could say nothing at the time because his conclusion was based on secret grand jury testimony and confidential White House material.

Jaworski, who resigned as special prosecutor in October after 11 months on the job, said he was disappointed by Nixon's "inability to bring himself around to telling the truth." Had Nixon publicly divulged what he knew about the Watergate affair after the November, 1972, election, "there would have been a furor for a few weeks, and then I think it would have all blown over," Jaworski is quoted as saying.

Jaworski added he thought Nixon would still have won the election even if he had told the truth before voters went to the polls.

Jaworski was interviewed in Houston, where he has returned to practice law earlier this month, a spokesman for the magazine said.

Jaworski is quoted as saying in the interview that the deci-

sion to name Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator "was something that had to be weighed carefully, but why was it done? The reason was that the House Judiciary Committee was about to begin its proceedings, and this was the proper forum to deal with a sitting President on a matter of this kind. The alternative would have been to go ahead and indict him and throw this country into tremendous turmoil, not only domestically but internationally."

Jaworski said that although White House Chief of Staff Alexander M. Haig Jr. told him repeatedly Nixon would not resign, he was certain "that once the recordings were turned over to us as a result of the Supreme Court decision, his situation would deteriorate, and that's what did happen."

The former special prosecutor said he felt President Ford had the constitutional right to pardon Nixon. "Whether I agreed with what he did is beside the point," he said, adding that President Ford "didn't second-guess me while I was special prosecutor, and I'm not going to second-guess him."

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