

Ex-Prosecutor Neal Says

NASHVILLE, Jan. 9 (UPI)—Former Watergate chief prosecutor James Neal urged U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica to show leniency to those involved in Watergate, Neal disclosed today in an interview with The Nashville Banner.

The Nashville attorney said his recommendation was made during a bench conference involving lawyers and Sirica during the three-month Watergate cover-up trial, which ended Jan. 1.

[Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former Nixon presidential assistants H. R. (Bob) Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were convicted in that trial of conspiracy and obstruction of justice, and former Assistant Attorney

General Robert C. Mardian was convicted of conspiracy. They have yet to be sentenced by Sirica.]

"I stated to the court that I would urge the court to be generous with everyone involved in Watergate," Neal said.

"I think there are different types of punishment for different people and I don't see long prison sentences with respect to the people who got entangled in Watergate as very helpful," he added.

"For whatever sins they've committed, they've paid, and they've paid dearly, and to penalize them severely by long prison sentences is to make them pay for a changing era, it seems to me," Neal said.

He said he was surprised by

Sirica's decision to free John W. Dean III, Jeb Stuart Magruder and Herbert W. Kalmbach, who pleaded guilty to Watergate-related offenses. But he said he agreed with that decision.

Neal explained that his plea for leniency for the cover-up defendants "came up because defense counsel noted that Dean and Magruder had filed a motion to reduce their sentence under the federal rule and asked that this be told to the jury. We didn't think this was something that should be explained to the jury . . .

"In the course of the discussions at the bench, I said, 'While we haven't promised anything, I would like the court to be generous with those who have pleaded guilty as well as anyone who is con-

He Asked Leniency

victed in this case,' " Neal said.

Pardons Seen at Least 3-5 Years Away

Newhouse News Service

Watergate defendants John W. Dean III, Jeb Stuart Magruder and Herbert W. Kalmbach will be eligible to apply for pardons restoring their civil rights in 1978 at the earliest, the government's expert on pardons says.

Lawrence M. Traylor, chief pardon attorney for the Justice Department, said in an interview that he had not yet determined whether the felonies to which the three pleaded guilty would require three-or five-year waiting periods.

"Eligibility time starts at the time they are released

from incarceration," he said.

Then, Traylor said, it takes nine months to a year for a pardon to be granted.

The power to grant pardons is given to the President by the Constitution and can be used at any time. But the White House has said any Watergate-related pardons would be handled under normal procedures.

Jaworski Said to Doubt Case Against Rebozo

MIAMI, Jan. 9 (AP)—Leon Jaworski, former Watergate special prosecutor, said he doubts that criminal cases can be made against C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo for his role in handling Nixon campaign contribution, The Miami Herald reported today.

Jaworski said in the Herald interview that he did not think Rebozo, generally regarded as former President Nixon's best friend, would be prosecuted for his role in handling contributions, including a \$100,000 donation from billionaire Howard R. Hughes.

Rebozo said he was "delighted that Jaworski came to the only conclusion any fair-minded person would come to based on the facts."

Jaworski, who served as the second Watergate special prosecutor, was quoted in the Herald as saying there currently was not sufficient hard evidence on which prosecutors could make a case strong enough to go to trial against Rebozo.