

JAWORSKI TELLS OF PLEA BY NIXON

AUG 25 1976

Says Weeping Ex-President
Begged Eastland to Save
Him From Prosecution
NYTimes

HOUSTON, Aug. 24 (UPI)—A weeping Richard M. Nixon pleaded with a Democratic senator to save him from criminal prosecution in the Watergate case, according to the former special prosecutor Leon Jaworski in his book, "The Right and the Power."

At the time, Mr. Nixon had resigned the Presidency and flown to San Clemente, and a national debate had begun on whether he should be prosecuted for his part in Watergate.

Mr. Jaworski received a phone call from Senator James O. Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, asking the special prosecutor to visit Mr. Eastland and Senator Roman L. Hruska, Republican of Nebraska.

Mr. Eastland said that he had just talked with Mr. Nixon, that the former President had called from his San Clemente residence.

"He was crying," Mr. Eastland said according to the book. "He said, 'Jim, don't let Jaworski put me in that trial with Haldeman and Ehrlichman. I can't take any more.'"

"He's in bad shape, Leon," Mr. Eastland told Mr. Jaworski.

In his book, which will be released in mid-September Mr. Jaworski wrote:

"There was a touch of the pity he felt for Nixon in his voice, but not the slightest intimation that he was trying to twist my arm. He was simply telling me something about a man in whom we both, for differing reasons, had a deep interest."

The excerpts were published today by The Houston Chronicle.

"Senator Brooke, Republican of Massachusetts, had withdrawn his plan for a resolution asking that no action be taken against Mr. Nixon, because he considered the resignation speech an arrogant affront to the country," the book continued. "But others, in and out of Congress, were still calling for such a resolution. I asked Eastland if the consensus group had any plans in that direction. He said no decision had been reached. 'We'll think on it. We'll be in touch.'"

But no one got in touch, according to the book.

Columnists and cartoonists depicted Mr. Jaworski as deserted by Congress and President Ford.

"To them," Mr. Jaworski wrote, "I was in a position of being damned if I did or damned if I didn't prosecute Nixon. Experts of various kinds were interviewed about 'Jaworski's dilemma.' Various courses of action were recommended, some bordering on the exotic."

While Mr. Jaworski and his special prosecution force were studying courses of action that could be taken Mr. Ford pardoned Mr. Nixon for any and all crimes that he may have committed while he was President.

All royalties earned by the book are being donated to charity by the author.