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# Jaworski's Book

## Houston

Richard Nixon preserved the Watergate tapes because he thought they were worth a fortune, and his desire for wealth ultimately cost him the presidency, former Watergate special prosecutor Leon Jaworski says in his book, "The Right and the Power."

"His (Nixon's) background showed him to be a man greedy for both money and power," Jaworski says in his personal account of the last days of the Nixon White House. "He hoped to realize a fortune from them (the tapes)." Jaworski's book was released this week.

Jaworski, a Houston attor-

ney and former Nuernberg war crimes prosecutor, said that if Mr. Nixon had destroyed his prized tapes, "I believe he would have survived and remained in office."

Jaworski said he lost respect for Mr. Nixon while listening to conversations between the President and his special counsel Charles Colson, which were taped in January, 1973.

"It sounded like two cheap ward-healers talking in the rear room of a neighborhood dive," he said.

"The President was full of contempt for certain congressmen and close friends simply because they had shown a lack

of enthusiasm for one policy or another. They (Colson and Mr. Nixon) talked of revenge against their enemies."

Jaworski said he did not want to record his view of Watergate but finally changed his mind. Proceeds from the book will go charity.

The former prosecutor said he is bound to withhold the exact content of the conversations that did not relate to Watergate, because he demanded to listen to the tapes even though White House chief of staff General Alexander Haig said they would be embarrassing to Mr. Nixon and to others.

"I often wondered how

See also SFC 25 Aug 76.

## Calls Nixon 'Greedy'

Nixon was able to concentrate even briefly on the matters of state that begged for his attention," Jaworski said. "There he was in the Oval Office, day after day, night after night, scheming, plotting and finally sacrificing his staff and others one by one to save himself.

"It was a sordid, frightening drama," he said. "It was torture to remain silent in the face of such duplicity."

While Mr. Nixon was still in office the federal grand jury investigating Watergate wanted him to appear as a witness, but Mr. Nixon declined, Jaworski says. At one point, Jaworski writes, he even proposed to

Haig that "the grand jury go to the White House in a bus, posing as tourists, and let them assemble themselves wherever the President wished."

Also included in the book is a discussion between Jaworski and Haig, in which Haig admitted, "I don't mind telling you that I haven't the slightest doubt the tapes were screwed with — the ones with gaps and other problems."

Jaworski says that the "bait" of an appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court was dangled before him when he arrived in Washington to discuss his appointment as special Watergate prosecutor.

Jaworski says he was met at Andrews Air Force Base by Haig and that Haig told him almost immediately: "You're highly regarded, and it's no secret that you're high on the list for appointment to the Supreme Court."

Jaworski writes: "I suppressed a smile. The remark could have been part flattery, part fact, but I suspected it was all bait."

Jaworski says he replied, "My serving on the Supreme Court was discussed in the Lyndon Johnson administration. I had no interest in it then and I have none now."

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