

Jaworski Says Court Post Was Used as Bait Before Watergate Job Was Offered

HOUSTON, Aug. 25 (AP) — Leon Jaworski says the bait of an appointment to the United States Supreme Court was dangled before him when he arrived in Washington to discuss his appointment as special Watergate prosecutor.

Mr. Jaworski, a Houston lawyer, said he was met at Andrews Air Force Base on Oct. 31, 1973, by Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., then President Nixon's chief of staff.

Mr. Jaworski recounted the meeting in his book, "The Right and the Power," which went on sale here today.

The attorney said that General 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."

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

Continuing, he said he had 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."

In his book, he also said that he believed President Nixon would have remained in office if he had destroyed his tapes.

Mr. Jaworski speculates that one reason Mr. Nixon refused to destroy the tapes was because they were worth money.

"He hoped to realize a fortune from them," Mr. Jaworski writes, "and his background showed him to be a man greedy for both money and power."

The book had been scheduled for release in September, but officials at Gulf Publishing Company said it would be released today in Houston. The

Houston Post obtained a copy of the book yesterday.

Mr. Jaworski says little in the book about the pardon of Mr. Nixon by President Ford but offers some conclusions about the former President.

"I often wondered," Mr. Jaworski writes, "how Nixon was able to concentrate even briefly on the matters of state that begged for his attention. 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 so as to save himself."

Mr. Jaworski also writes that H.R. Haldeman, who had been the White House chief of staff under Mr. Nixon, once offered to plead guilty to a single Watergate felony charge and testify against John H. Ehrlichman, another former Nixon aide, "in all other matters known to him" if the Government would dismiss other charges against Mr. Haldeman.

But the deal fell through, Mr. Jaworski writes, when United States District Court Judge

John J. Sirica refused to assure Mr. Haldeman's attorney what sort of sentence his client might face.