

WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE
United States Department of Justice
1425 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

December 4, 1973

Mr. Ronald Ziegler
Assistant to the President
and Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ziegler:

I think that both of us would agree that a public exchange of accusations and denials of alleged staff-prejudice in the Special Prosecutor's office could serve no useful purpose and I do not propose to engage in such an effort. The accusation that has been leveled against my staff, however, should not remain without comment lest an absence of denial be construed as concurrence.

When first I assumed this task, I had been forewarned, based on rumor to be sure, that there were those in the Special Prosecutor's office who were zealots, determined to achieve their own end, regardless of truth. I am now prepared to assure you, after a month of close association with the staff, that this suspicion is totally unfounded. I have worked daily with my principal subordinates, reviewing data that is being assembled, additional sources to explore, recommendations to consider and action to be taken. In my experience at the bar, I have found no group who as a whole are more objective, more fair-minded and more dedicated to a search for the truth than is this unusual group of talented lawyers. Should I find any among them who do not meet the qualifications of fairness and objectivity, I would not hesitate to dismiss them.

The responsibilities this office shoulders are those of fairness to all who have been the subject of serious allegations within our sphere of jurisdiction; conversely there are also obligations of fairness to the American people. The rules of law must be equally applied no matter whom they reach and this, I can assure you, is the direction in which our efforts are channeled.

The proper application of the prosecutorial function has been well defined in the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility. These have been distributed to all members of the staff and I am confident that you will find that these tenets will be respected.

The generalization of your assertions gives me nothing to investigate. If you have any knowledge of unfairness on the part of any member of my staff, I would appreciate your imparting it to me. Moreover, if you wish, I shall be glad to meet with you for a full discussion of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leon Jaworski".

LEON JAWORSKI
Special Prosecutor