

WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION FORCE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO :

DATE: November 29, 1973

FROM :

SUBJECT:

In today's news briefing, White House Press Secretary Ron Ziegler apparently attacked Rick Ben-Veniste in general terms. He referred to the suggestion of Mr. Jaworski that the White House might consider placing the rest of the tapes in the court's custody, first as "not viable" and generally said "its nonsense."

In the midst of the briefing he made the following statement concerning Mr. Jaworski and the staff.

Ron Ziegler: I don't want there to be any misinterpretation in relation to Mr. Jaworski. I think Mr. Jaworski is a very respected man, a very fair man and that's his reputation. I am in no way casting any ⁸⁵ ~~ex~~ expulsions on Mr. Jaworski. I have said before privately and I have said it publicly that I have very serious questions about the staff in the Special Prosecutor's office, in terms of, in political terms. I think that although they no doubt are attempting to work fairly, that I think the, their simply political background, what they have felt, their views, their attitudes towards this administration in the period of their adult lives would suggest that they enter into this entire procedure with a certain amount of ingrained suspæcion and visceral dislike for this President and for this administration. I am not referring to Jaworski, to Mr. Jaworski, I am referring to the Cox group that was put together.

Question: But Mr. Jaworski speaks kindly of that group?

Ron Ziegler: Well, I speak unkindly of it.

Ron Ziegler: I would like to say on a purely personal basis, I would like to point out that an indictment, an indictment no matter what the facts are or the motivation behind that indictment, in no way undercuts the presumption that Dwight Chapin is innocent is true or anyone else in our system of government. I just would like to leave you with that thought.