

Watergate



U.S. SENATOR
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Letter from Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) to U.S. Senator James O. Eastland, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee

For Immediate Release, Wed., 9/18/74

September 17, 1974

The Honorable James O. Eastland
United States Senator
Room 2241 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On September 10th, eight members of the Judiciary Committee wrote to Mr. Leon Jaworski, the Special Prosecutor, expressing the belief that the public interest required that the Special Prosecutor's final report include a full and complete record detailing any involvement of the former President in matters under investigation by the Special Prosecutor.

Today, Mr. Jaworski responded to our letter stating that he had questions as to the statutory authority of the Special Prosecutor, under the present guidelines, to include in his final report a record of former President Nixon's involvement in matters under investigation by his office.

Recognizing the overriding national interest in this investigation, I believe the Judiciary Committee should conduct a meeting, and if need be, a hearing, to determine if the public interest would be best served by making explicit the authority of the Special Prosecutor to include such material in his final report.

As you know, Senator Mansfield and I have also sponsored a Senate resolution calling upon President Ford to make public all facts connected with Watergate matters. Action by the Government Operations Committee is expected soon.

In the meantime, I feel it is imperative that all documents and tapes of the former President that are under the custody of President Ford remain so in Washington until the issue is finally resolved. To that end, I would hope that a request from the Judiciary Committee could go forward to President Ford urging him to keep such materials under his custody in Washington until the pending proceedings are resolved.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Byrd
U.S. Senator

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