

# Prosecutor calm about Watergate

By ROBERT KIPPER

After all the bad things Richard Nixon's White House staff said about the Watergate prosecutors being "out to get" the former President, one expects all Watergate prosecutors to be Nixon-hating firebrands.

William H. Merrill doesn't seem like your typical hot-headed, Nixon-hating, gun-gang prosecutor although he did hate much of what Nixon did. He is a lifelong Democrat, and did devote 15 months of his life to being a part of the historic investigation into the misconduct of the former President and his closest associates.

Now returned to his Detroit law practice and his Bloomfield Township home, Merrill speaks of his Washington experiences as he claims to have lived them: Calmly, seriously, dispassionately.

Listening to him, one believes his self-appraisal as one of the older and wiser heads of the Archibald Cox, then Leon Jaworski team.

LIKE OTHER Watergate investigators, Merrill simply worked long and hard on his assigned case until the evidence was solid enough to stand the ultimate test.

"I felt from the very beginning of the case that, no matter what everyone else thought, in the final analysis it would be up to 12 people.

"In the midst of my closing argument, as I talked about the liberties our forefathers died for, I felt from the expression in the jurors' eyes that they would convict the defendants in short order. It was reassuring."



cool, carefree seersucker  
**SHADES OF SUMMER**  
by Madison

One of the age-old secrets for just the right appearance during summer's warm days is seersucker. We now offer you this classic favorite in a suit of textured yarns that wear as well as they look all day long. The neat stripes and checks, in light, bright summer colors, add a bit of dash to the most uncomfortable day.

\$150  
Perfectly accented by a white linen vest. \$22.50

*Copper Kipper*

WOODWARD AVE. • SOMERSET MALL • NORTHLAND  
also in Chicago

Northland Presents...

**HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW** FREE ADMISSION!  
April 10, 11, 12, 13  
9:30 A.M. TO 9:00 P.M. DAILY SUNDAY, NOON TO 5:00 P.M.

**FREE!** WIN AN EXPENSE PAID ELKIN TOUR FOR TWO!  
Fly To The Glamorous **BAHAMAS**  
Compliments of the HOME IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL  
Drawing Sunday April 15th 4:00 P.M. (See News Item)  
Be Present To Win!

**NEW IDEAS IN HOME IMPROVEMENT BOTH EXTERIOR & INTERIOR**

See The Many Beautiful Displays

• KITCHENS • ADDITIONS  
• SIDING  
• WINDOWS • DOORS  
• GARAGES • POOLS  
• FLOORS • ROOFING

**NORTHLAND 75**  
Refrigerator & Light Mail & Cooled



WILLIAM MERRILL

The convictions Merrill speaks of were handed down last July when Ehrlichman and three others were found guilty of the Ellsberg break-in after less than a few hours of jury deliberations.

Although there has been no evidence of Nixon's prior knowledge of that break-in, Merrill believes the former president knew about it early and possibly in advance.

Ehrlichman, whose conviction was aided by his memo approving the Ellsberg project "if done under the assurance that it is not traceable," would not have given such approval without discussing it in the Oval Office, Merrill believes.

THE ELLSBERG break-in trial, like the entire Watergate investigation, was handled fairly, Merrill believes. There is no way, he says, that future generations could think differently about what he and others did.

Although the system worked, Merrill said it wasn't always inevitable that it would.

"The system worked only because so many people cared to make it work," he says.

Had just Judge Sirica or just the prosecutors or just the Congressmen or press been alarmed, little might have happened. It took all segments, especially the public, Merrill said.

Merrill believes Nixon would never have hired Jaworski to carry on Cox's investigation if it weren't for the public outcry following the "Saturday Night Massacre." Likewise, many prosecutors believed it was only continued public support for the investigation that made it possible.

"It sounds strange to say but many of us were afraid of where the investigation could lead," he says. "We thought that if the investigation got too close to Nixon we could all end up in a concentration camp or something."

On the evening when rumors were flying that Cox was about to be fired, Merrill cut a dinner engagement short to return to his office and gather his most important papers.

"I was genuinely concerned that no one would ever see them again."

ANY WATERGATE conversation with Merrill eventually gets down to personalities.

Merrill admired both his Watergate bosses, but for different reasons.

"Archibald Cox was kind, gentle, inspiring—an ideal kind of person," Merrill says. It was Cox and his long seminars with his staff that set the tone of the investigation Leon Jaworski eventually completed.

"Leon moved faster. While Archie's background was more deliberate and professional, Leon was an active trial lawyer. He met with us, looked at the evidence we gathered and said, 'Okay, let's go.'"

OF THE Nixon associates Merrill dealt with on the Ellsberg case, they

**executives need fit**

Custom-tailored shirts and accessories.

**executive custom shirtmakers inc.**

large quality fabric selection private fittings your office or ours  
mon-sat. 10-5:30 pm  
thurs. 11-9 pm  
SOMERSET MALL  
merrillwood mall  
woodward 1 1/2 mile south of mcdowell  
Birmingham, AL 35211  
642-0480

## Announcing the Jaguar XJ12L.



### The Jaguar mystique lengthens.

When introduced last year, the XJ12 sedan received universal praise from automotive journalists. One went so far as to write: "It may just be the best sedan available anywhere in the world."

To that we now add exactly four inches of leg room in the rear passenger compartment. The Series II XJ12L is a final measure of luxury for this highly acclaimed sedan.

And Jaguar's famed roadability comes from running gear usually reserved for pure racing machinery. Independent front and rear suspension, power-assisted four-wheel disc brakes and power-assisted rack and pinion steering.

See the XJ12L in our show room now.

**Falvey Motors of Troy**  
1815 Maplelawn  
TROY MOTOR MALL  
643-7870

**Falvey Imported Cars**  
22600 Woodward Avenue  
FERNDALE  
643-5000



Polo® lovingly reinstates the blazer striped dress shirt. Polo may play on classic themes, but always with a fresh technique. Their 1975 interpretation of the blazer stripe, for instance, put it on a well-cut dress shirt with regular spread collar and single-button cuffs, plus Polo's famous fit and detail. Blue and brown stripes on a white ground, in unusually luxurious pure cotton. The price is an equally luxurious \$30.

## THE BOARDROOM

Exclusively in Somerset Mall

**REPLACEMENT CUSHIONS**  
THICK AND TUFTED CHAIR AND CHAIR CUSHIONS  
PRE-SEASON PRICES  
\$12" & \$17" ONLY

**DIRECTOR'S CHAIR**  
25 COLOR COMBINATIONS  
NOW IN STOCK

**5-PIECE CALIFORNIA REPOUR GROUP**  
PRE-SEASON PRICE  
Reg. \$221.20  
VALUE **\$169.95**

As sturdy as the true rattan, fashioned by "Yandy Craft" to a smooth clear appearance, they're finished so that the rattan just bounces off. Thick tufted water-repellant cushions for extra soft relaxation.

• MEADOWCRAFT • YANDY CRAFT • CAROLINA FURTS • WATERFIRE

**BIRMINGHAM**  
221 HAMILTON  
North of 15 Mile  
East of Woodward  
9:30 to 5:30 DAILY  
THURS. & FRI. 9:30 to 9:00

**LIVONIA**  
29500 W. 6 Mile  
at Middlebelt  
Open  
9:30 to 5:30 DAILY  
MON. & FRI. 9:30 to 9:00

644-1019 522-9200