Live TV Coverage of Watergate to End

day to drop live coverage of the Senate Watergate hearsion networks voted yesterings when the committee re-The three major televi-Washington Post Staff Writer By John Carmody

SIL

sessions next

when they met briefly in New York to consider fur-ther coverage of "Phase II" of the hearings. The three to gavel, on a rotating basis. Television audiences will "outvoted 2 to 1" by repre-Tuesday. networks have been coversentatives of NBC and ABC ing the hearings live, gavel President Richard

casting Service. ings over the Public Broadtaped delayed version of still be able each day's Watergate hearto watch a

tinue to tape the hearings Television here, Public Affairs Center for PBS, through its Nationsl will con-

> public TV stations. An NPACT spokesman said covfor rebroadcast daily at 8 hearings, Nov. 1, the committee's tarerage will continue until p.m. over the nation's 239 get date for completing the

Sept. 17-21. networks during the week of ment programs on the three and NBC, respectively) indi-New York and Los Angeles than had day-time entertaincated the for the Monday and Tuesday drawing larger audiences Overnight TV ratings in hearings were

"That's what I based my argument on," Salant said. He added, however, that no ratings were available to summer coverage of ership attained by the midhearings. the surprisingly high viewcompare audience size with the

in July began covering the The three networks, which

> at the conclusion of Phase I. which was intended to end agreed to rotate coverage,

mer hearings. cally shown during the sumconcern with allegations of White House involvement in the Watergate and Ellsberg tricks" rather than direct area of campaign "dirty hearings had moved into the to the networks that the mony by White House aide cover-up effects, so dramatiburglaries and subsequent Patrick Buchanan indicated According to Salant, the

news judgment." was "very much a matter of meeting, said yesterday that NBC news president Richard Wald, who attended the the vote to conacel coverage

ering a very important israscinating experiment covhaving gone very far with a "It's strictly a question of

hearings separately, later sue," Wald said. "We've come to the end of that phase of the hearings that was most closely tied to the

depending on the witnesses on" NBC will cover the hearand the news values." ings "as we think we should Wald said that "from now

at any time; we can show a highlights version periodi-

cally, and we can show por-

could go on forever," he said. "It's a very important they care, it (the telecasts) witnesses due next week." can't name the next three committee but I'd bet you cel the coverage, "For all sure on the networks to can-Nixon administration presthere was no suggestion of The NBC executive said

no" government pressure on said there was "absolutely against further coverage "was a news judgment." He vice president of ABC news, also said his decision to vote William Sheehan, senior

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most important of national issues." the networks to discontinue the hearing coverage. ABC has day and could broadcast live will tape record the whole Watergate coverage. three options on further

News." tions on our ABC Evening Salant said CBS currently

week. plans to show daily high-lights at 11:30 p.m. until midnight starting next week

on the importance of the could be resumed depending stressed that live coverage witnesses involved. All three executives of

future coverage plans. to dismantle the equipment would have direct import on that the present pooling of TV equipment at the Senate Office Building is also un-der negotiation. A decision However, it was learned