

Dole to Seek to Close Ervin Panel Hearings

Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), saying "the people want the hearings off the screen," drafted a resolution yesterday to close the Senate Watergate hearings and leave the scandal to the courts.

Former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst also urged a suspension of the televised hearings in the interest of a fair trial for any defendants who are criminally indicted.

But a spokesman for the Senate committee headed by Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) said there was little chance Dole's resolution would pass the Senate.

Contradicting Dole's observation that the public had "had enough of watching the seven senators try Richard Nixon on television," the Ervin committee spokesman said 90 per cent of the 14,000 letters it has received since the President's news conference Aug. 22 favored continuing the hearings.

Pressing the argument that Mr. Nixon has used in recent days, Dole said that "with all these problems we have, particularly with inflation, we ought to be devoting our time to these issues and these problems and letting the grand jury and the courts get along with the Watergate."

Dole said he would introduce his resolution next week after Congress returns Tuesday from its August recess. It would forbid the Ervin Committee to conduct any hearings or receive any testimony, except in executive session.

"The people want the members of Congress to be concerned about the problems that affect them," he said, "and Watergate does

not affect them."

The Senate gave the committee until mid-February to investigate Watergate and other 1972 presidential campaign activities. Ervin plans to resume the hearings Sept. 17 and says he hopes to complete them by Nov. 1.

In St. Louis, Kleindienst said the hearings were "an extravaganza, kind of a self-inflicted, orgy-type situation growing out of a very sad, lamentable situation."

He said they would be "perverting the enforcement of the law" if they jeopardized a defendant's right to a fair trial and resulted in freeing the guilty in Watergate.

Because of the issue of

pretrial publicity, Judge John J. Sirica apparently is planning to cut short lucrative lecture tours set up by Watergate burglar James W. McCord Jr. and conspirator Jeb Stuart Magruder.

McCord's lawyer, Bernard Fensterwald, appeared before Sirica in U.S. District Court Wednesday to request permission for his client to make 17 lectures around the country next month arranged or him by a private speakers' bureau.

Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox opposed the tour, arguing in a letter that it would contribute to the already considerable publicity the Watergate case has received. Sirica agreed and ordered McCord to stay off the lecture circuit.

It was pointed out that Magruder plans a similar tour. Sirica then ordered both men and their lawyers to appear for a hearing on

the subject next Wednesday. He made it clear he would apply the same standard to both men.

McCord and Magruder, former officials at the Committee for the re-election of the President, are awaiting sentencing for their roles in the Watergate break-in. McCord was convicted in the original trial, but Sirica put off sentencing to encourage him to cooperate with government prosecutors and the Senate Watergate committee investigating the scandal.

Magruder, who admitted taking part in planning the break-in and later efforts to cover up high-level involvement in it, was permitted to plead guilty to a single count of conspiracy to obstruct justice in exchange for his cooperation with authorities.

Both men are free pending sentencing.

Fensterwald said Sirica earlier had permitted McCord to travel around the country and to make speeches while out on bond, and the judge still lets him leave the Washington area on other business.

McCord told newsmen Wednesday in Springfield, Ill., where he was making a speech, that he has given about 20 speeches and has been invited to appear before college and university audiences on some 40 campuses. He received \$2,000 for an address at Sangamon State University in Springfield, but refused to say how much he has made so far.

He also has a book scheduled for publication and has published at least one magazine article.

McCord said he needs \$70,000 to \$100,000 to pay his legal expenses. Fensterwald said the main problem is support for McCord's family and that the judge has been sympathetic to that in the past.