

THE FRONT PAGE



By Rudy Maxa

WATERGATE, CONTINUED

In a book to be published next month, former Senate Watergate committee minority counsel **Fred Thompson** concludes "several people, including some at the Democratic headquarters, had advance knowledge of the Watergate break-in." Included in Thompson's suspicion is columnist **Jack Anderson**, whose long-time friendship with Frank Sturgis intrigued Thompson and his staff. However, be-

cause of a lack of a "smoking gun," the Senate committee reluctantly let the questions go unresolved.

Thompson, whose book is titled *At That Point In Time*, adds some other footnotes to Watergate history. From the start, Thompson writes, Republican **Sen. Lowell Weicker** maintained the only way the Republicans could win with Watergate was if they pushed the investigation harder than the Democrats. **Sen. Edward Gurney** of Florida never went along with that. One time, after **Sen. Howard Baker** failed to shake John Mitchell's cool demeanor, Thompson received a phone call from Martha Mitchell. "You tell Howard (Baker) to get John so mad tomorrow that he will just blurt it all out, just blurt the truth out," Mrs. Mitchell said.

And it didn't take long for Thompson, a Tennessee attorney, to be affected by Washington paranoia. He writes that he always assumed his phone was tapped.

Footnote: Anderson says he told the Senate committee everything he knew about a potential Watergate break-in. James McCord had reportedly told someone in the November Group, Nixon's campaign advertising team, he was going to bug Democratic National Committee chairman Larry O'Brien's phone. But the rumor reached Anderson in a garbled form: he understood from a New York source that the November Group—not the Plumbers—were planning some kind of illegal activities.