

[Dick Rail (phonetic), Washington:]

A U.S. District Court judge has put the seal on all pre-trial testimony in the case of the Watergate Five. Judge Charles R. Ritchie said his decision not to release witnesses' depositions is to safeguard the constitutional rights of the five persons who are now charged in the break-in and bugging last June at Democratic national headquarters, as well as the rights of persons who may later be charged in criminal proceedings. The Democrats are suing the five arrested, and the G.O.P., for a million dollars.

The ruling makes it unlikely that the public will hear the testimony of top G.O.P. witnesses - including former Attorney General John Mitchell and Nixon campaign finance chief Maurice Stans - until after election day, November 7th.

Dick Rail, Washington.

[Complete.]