

Watergate Trial Is Delayed

By Lawrence Meyer
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The presiding judge in the trial of the seven men charged with the June 17 Watergate break-in at Democratic headquarters has granted a 14-day extension to defense and prosecution lawyers to file motions and responses.

The action by Chief U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica, taken during a brief court session Tuesday, virtually eliminates the possibility of the criminal trial proceeding before the Nov. 7 Presidential election.

Under the new deadlines, motions will not be due until Oct. 18 and responses will not be due until Oct. 28, a Saturday. Since the court normally

does not sit on weekends, action on the motions by Sirica could not be expected before Oct. 30. In addition, court observers noted, attorneys could ask for a hearing, further delaying rulings by Sirica. No trial date has been set.

Last week, U.S. District Court Judge Charles R. Richey said it will be "impossible" to start the trial of the \$3.2 million civil damage suit brought by the Democratic National Committee and the two countersuits brought by the committee for the Re-Election of the President before the election.

Sirica orally extended the time for filing motions by seven days and then granted the prosecution an additional

seven days to respond after Thomas A. Kennelly, one of the lawyers for defendant G. Gordon Liddy, asked for the extension. Kennelly was brought into the case Monday after Sirica earlier ordered Liddy to retain a local attorney to represent him.

Kennelly told Sirica that he would need extra time to review the case and to prepare motions. Kennelly's request was unopposed by the prosecution.

In related action, Sirica yesterday denied a motion by the prosecution that four other defendants—Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez, Virgilio R. Gonzalez and Frank A. Sturgis—be required to retain separate counsel.

The four men are being rep-

resented by Henry R. Rothblatt. Sirica said he could find no conflict or prejudice in Rothblatt's representing all four men.

William O. Bittman, the attorney for another defendant, E. Howard Hunt Jr., yesterday asked Sirica to bar any further statements out of court by persons involved in the case concerning it.

The seventh defendant in the case is James W. McCord.