

Probe May Last 18 Months

2d Watergate Grand Jury Sworn In

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The settlement of an anti-trust action against ITT, illegal campaign contributions by corporations, extortion by federal officials, conspiracy and obstruction of justice will be investigated by a second Watergate grand jury that was empaneled here yesterday.

Chief Judge John J. Sirica told the 14 women and nine men who will consider evidence of official corruption in the next 18 months that the "prosecution of infamous crimes" and the protection of individuals from facing trial on "charges not well-founded" is up to them. Sirica's words are part of the standard charge to a federal grand jury.

The new federal panel had been requested last month by Archibald Cox, the Watergate special prosecutor.

Sirica named Julian G. Murphy, 3638 Alton Pl. NW to be foreman. Murphy is an agent of the John Hancock Life Insurance Co. Selected as deputy foreman was Ada Chapman.

Before they were sworn in, Sirica told the jurors that deputy prosecutor Thomas F. McBride had informed him that the investigation "may last—there is

no way of knowing—as long as 18 months." Sirica said "that doesn't mean you'll sit every day, but maybe two or three days week" for the next 1½ years. "I thought you ought to know that before we empanel you," the judge said.

Only two persons were excused after consultation with the judge, one a woman who had just taken a new job, and a student.

As with the original Watergate grand jury, which continues to meet, all jurors are residents of the District of Columbia.

The first grand jury was empaneled in June, 1972, and inherited the investigation of the burglary of the Democratic National Committee offices in the Watergate Office Building and its cover-up. That jury's tenure will expire in December unless Sirica extends its term.

Yesterday's new grand jury went to work immediately, on the sixth floor of the U.S. Courthouse. Three other federal grand juries, including the original Watergate panel, are in session on the third floor in rooms constructed especially for their deliberations.

One of the first tasks of the new grand jury was to elect a secretary and other

officers. Assisting McBride with the new grand jury are Charles F. C. Ruff and Roger M. Witten. They have been working as Special Prosecutor Cox's task force on Campaign contributions.

Sirica told the jurors that their proceedings are "absolutely sacred and secret," and that they should come personally "to my chambers behind this courtroom" to report any attempts to influence them.

He explained that a juror could be excused occasionally from reporting when genuine conflicts arise in the coming months. A total of 16 of the 23 jurors must be present for a quorum, but only a simple majority of 12 of them must concur to return indictments.

The ITT issue that the jurors will study was raised again during testimony before the Senate select Watergate committee. In 1969 the government had sued ITT to divest itself of three of its major affiliates, Hartford Fire Insurance Co., the Canteen Corp., and the Grinnell Corp. There have been allegations that the antitrust action was settled by compromise—ITT was allowed to keep Hartford partly in exchange for a pledge by ITT to underwrite

\$400,000 of the cost of the 1972 Republican National Convention in San Diego. (The convention was moved later to Miami Beach.)

Another facet of the investigation will center on corporations and their officers and directors who made political contributions from company funds. The special prosecution force has a still-secret list of 2,000 persons who made donations, many in cash, to the Nixon campaign. American Airlines acknowledged on July 6 that its board chairman made an illegal gift of \$55,000 to the President's re-election campaign.

Still other targets of the jury may be the "milk money"—\$317,500 given by three dairy groups that won an increase in government price support after meeting with Mr. Nixon in the White House—and a contested re-appointment to the Civil Aeronautics Board of a member whose votes allegedly had been unfavorable to American Airlines.