

DEC 5 1972 DEC 1 1972

Answers Wanted By Watergate Judge

WASHINGTON (A P) — Chief U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica, who will preside at the trial of seven men charged in connection with the break-in and alleged bugging of Democratic headquarters here, wants the trial to answer who hired the culprits, and why.

Judge Sirica said at a four-hour pretrial conference Monday: "This jury is going to want to know what did these men go into that headquarters for? Was their sole purpose political espionage? Were they paid? Was there financial gain? Who hired them? Who started this?"

Those charged in connection with the June 17 break-in at the Watergate complex include E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former White House aide; G. Gordon Liddy, also a former White House aide, and James W. McCord Jr., former security director of the President's re-election committee.

The others are Bernard L. Barker, Frank R. Sturgis, Virgilio R. Gonzales and Eugenio R. Martinez. Barker is a former Central Intelligence Agency operative.

The trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 8.

Sirica said he would sequester the jury during the trial even though defense lawyers argued that the trial could last from six weeks to three months and expressed fear the defendants would be blamed by the jury for their being sequestered for such a time.

Sirica also asked both government and defense lawyers to prepare briefs before he rules on a request that the Los Angeles Times should be compelled, under the threat of contempt of court proceedings, to produce tapes and

notes of an interview with Alfred C. Baldwin III, whom the defense described as the government's key witness.

Sirica asked Earl J. Silbert, the principal assistant U.S. attorney, whether the government will present testimony concerning a check for \$25,000 and another \$89,000 that found their way into Barker's bank account.

Silbert said there will be evidence on the check and that the government also will trace the \$89,000, "not necessarily from its source, but part of its way."

William O. Bittman, a lawyer representing Hunt, objected to admitting testimony about the money, on grounds the indictment makes no mention of it. But Sirica said "the government should be allowed considerable latitude" in establishing motive and intent.

Bittman also asked for some "control" over press coverage of the trial to prevent prejudicing the jury. He said the press "has had a field day writing prejudicial articles."

Sirica said sequestering of the jury would keep it from being exposed to the trial publicity.