

Excerpt from two-hour summary and review of the first day's proceedings of the Ervin Committee. Panelists discuss the capture of the Watergate burglars. One of them is Denise Bourdette, Pacifica Washington bureau chief until about six months ago, who was in the KPFA studio with Bill Sokol, Larry Bensky and Fran Watkins.

Bourdette.....: One person who has a theory about this is Robert Winterberger, the author of "The Washington Payoff," who has suffered from a certain kind of bizarre censorship in that his book was held back and not put in many bookstores because it contained some spicy stories about members of the Senate and others. Winterberger says that "nobody in Washington thinks that they were caught by accident. They were either being followed or somebody inside the organization gave them away." Because there's no reason, he says, for such an amateurish thing to be going on. There's no reason for them to tape the door, find the tape removed and come down and tape it again. Any normal group of burglars would say, "They've found us, and we'd better get out of here." And Winterberger said that he would not begin to take the whole thing seriously until there were indictments. The subsequent indictment of John Mitchell is indicative that at least they're not afraid to indict at this point.

Bensky: What about anything else Sgt. Leeper might have said today that was interesting?

Bourdette: The other kind of bizarre thing about Sgt. Leeper's testimony that was discussed at some length, but nobody got around to asking him quite what was going on, was that he's on duty from four in the afternoon until midnight, I think, and it was close to two in the morning when he was still/still driving around in the street and he got this phone call. He ~~xxxxx~~ heard a call for a tac unit and responded and went over there, and said that he was at the police station until seven o'clock [p.m.] the next day, which is a 24 hour shift. Obviously unusual circumstances. I don't know whether anybody is going to both to go into as to why he was still out on patrol two hours after his shift supposedly ended. But it's -- you, know, it's a little sore spot there.

*SCHECKNER?