

Hearings May End by October 15

Washington

Despite objections from some members of the Senate Watergate committee staff, a majority of Senators on the panel appears ready to vote that public hearings be ended by October 15.

According to interviews with committee members, all three Republicans on the committee and Senator Herman E. Talmadge (D-Ga.) want public hearings to reconvene on September 15 and then adjourn about a month later.

Some members of the staff of the Democratic majority on the committee yesterday expressed anger and alarm at the prospect of an October 15 cutoff date, contending that it will permit only a cursory examination of the financing of President Nixon's campaign and its program of political "dirty tricks."

Senator Howard Baker (R-Tenn.), the committee vice chairman, went further yesterday and said all the senators favored an early cutoff date during a closed-door, executive session yesterday. "There seemed to be a full committee consensus hoping to wind up about October 15 or November 1," Baker said.

He also said that the seven committee members are likely to divide into two subcommittees, one to investigate and hold public hearings on the "dirty tricks" and the other for the campaign financing.

The exact timing and divide be decided when the senators return from recess in September. However, the first phase of the committee probe — the inquiry into the Watergate bugging and cover-up — is not complete and will occupy the first days of the public hearings in September.

The uncertain future of the committee's investiga-

Rogers' Idea For Clean Campaign

Washington

Secretary of State William P. Rogers discussed Watergate yesterday and said the American system of financing political campaigns is so "rotten" that otherwise honorable men "can be corrupted by it."

Talking to 50 college students spending the summer as interns at the State Department, Rogers offered what he called "three simple devices" to improve the system:

- All campaign contributions should be by check except for "a relatively small amount" in cash, with "an unequivocal system" of accounting for all expenditures.

- A limit should be placed on the total amount that any individual can contribute, not only in one year, but over a series of years.

- "Severe and unequivocal penalties" for violations should be enacted.

This was the first time the former attorney general and close associate of President Nixon had spoken on Watergate since April, when he called for a full disclosure of the facts.

New York Times

tion reflects the growing tension between senators on the panel and their investigative staff, according to reliable sources.

Several of the senators, weary from their long days under the hot glare of television lights, have said privately that they believe the hearings could result in a "backlash" of public opinion if they continue much longer and foster the impression that the committee is "out to get" President Nixon.

Washington Post