

ITT Focus For New U.S. Grand Jury

Washington

United States District Judge John J. Sirica swore in a new 23-member grand jury yesterday to consider Watergate "spin-off cases."

Sirica cautioned the 15 women and eight men selected that the complex investigation might well last the full 18 months of a federal grand jury's statutory tenure.

It is expected that this special grand jury — called at the request of special

Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox — will focus initially on the alleged offer by International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. in 1971 to help underwrite the 1972 GOP national convention to the tune of \$400,000 in exchange for favorable settlement of three major federal antitrust actions then pending against the conglomerate.

ITT and the Nixon administration have denied the charges. But White House memos submitted at the Senate's Watergate hearings indicated that high administration officials were involved in the controversial settlement — contrary to sworn testimony before another Senate committee last year.

The new grand jury is expected to look into possible perjury in connection with the ITT case, as well as possible perjury before the Senate Watergate committee.

The original Watergate grand jury — which indicted the seven men convicted last January for conspiracy, burglary, bugging and wire-tapping at Democratic party headquarters — will continue to investigate that case and the subsequent cover-up.

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