

Sen. Ervin's Words For Nixon

Richmond, Va.

Senator Sam Ervin (Dem-N.C.) said of President Nixon yesterday that he "never did think he was a very effective president."

But Ervin added he didn't want to comment on possible resignation because "that's for the President to decide, not me."

Ervin, chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, also said at a news conference it would be improper for him to comment on impeachment proceedings against Mr. Nixon since he, as a senator, might one day have to sit in judgement.

Ervin responded with a resounding "No" at a news conference to the question whether he or his committee had ever been "out to get" the President.

"We were out to get the truth, and if the truth got the President it would be the President's fault, not the committee's fault," Ervin said.

Ervin praised the news media and said if it hadn't been "for the courage of Judge Sirica and the news media, this whole thing might have been swept under the rug."

"The news media didn't invent Watergate," he said. "It was invented by men entrusted by the President with great powers."

The senator said "I just don't know" when asked about the plausibility of the two missing White House tapes.

But when asked about the explanation of technical malfunction of the recording device, he said, "I do think this is a rather queer thing because they have experienced Secret Service people taking care of these things."

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