

'Be Not Deceived'

Watergate Panel Finale

Washington

Drawing from the Bible and Rudyard Kipling for a parting admonition to the sinners of Watergate, Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. presided over the finale yesterday of one of the most extraordinary investigations in congressional annals.

At the chairman's hand was the Senate Watergate committee's final report, a three-volume, 2217-page document to be released publicly tomorrow.

The portly North Carolina Democrat, whose Southern, folksy manner and razor-sharp parries were witnessed by millions of Americans during weeks of televised hearings last year, quoted from his personal postscript to that report:

"The lust for political

power of the presidential aides who perpetrated Watergate on America blinded them to the laws of God as well as to the laws and ethics of men.

"As one after another of the individuals who participated in Watergate goes to prison, we see in action an inexorable spiritual law, which Rudyard Kipling phrased in this fashion:

"For the sin ye do by two and two you must pay for one by one."

The committee is recommending new laws to regulate the conduct of political campaigns, but Ervin said law alone will not prevent future Watergates.

"When all is said and done," Ervin said, "the only sure antidote . . . is an understanding of fundamental

principles and intellectual and moral integrity in the men and women who achieve or are entrusted with the governmental or political power."

Ervin and other committee members spoke to newsmen at a last committee meeting in the familiar marble-and-oak Senate Caucus Room, where Watergate came to be etched upon the nation's conscience.

At this final session, Ervin and the others, including Senators Lowell P. Weicker (Rep-Conn.), Joseph P. Montoya (Dem-N.M.) and Daniel Inouye (Dem-Hawaii), refused to assess individual guilt or innocence in the scandal. Similarly, the report itself is shorn of such conclusions.

But they did declare they

have learned nothing to discredit the startling testimony last year of the President's prime accuser, John W. Dean III.

Ervin said the transcripts of the President's conversations "tends to corroborate" Dean, while Weicker said "There is no question that nothing has transpired that would refute his testimony."

Said Montoya: "In my opinion, John Dean was telling the truth."

Ervin was challenged by reporters who said the final report appeared to be toned down compared to the draft reports leaked to the press.

He said the committee had decided to list no conclusions because the facts of Watergate are now being weighed in the federal courts and by the House Judiciary Committee consider-

ing the possible impeachment of President Nixon.

Ervin, as part of his reading of his own remarks in the report, also quoted — as he does so often — from the Bible: "There is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."