

Jurors Want to Go On

Washington

The Watergate coverup jurors told U.S. District Judge John Sirica yesterday they all are prepared to remain sequestered through the Christmas holidays in the interest of "fairness and justice."

"The Watergate jury panel wishes to let you know that while they would, of course, enjoy spending Christmas at home, it is not an overriding concern among them," the jury said in a hand-written letter to Sirica.

The letter also said that the jury had "no reluctance" to holding longer daily court sessions to speed up the proceedings. But it said the members held the unanimous opinion that Saturday sessions, which Sirica has suggested, "would be detrimental to their ability to function efficiently."

The 14 women and three men who make up the jury and its alternates have been sequestered since October 11. Sirica asked them Thursday if they would be willing to work longer hours and hold Saturday sessions in order to complete the trial by Christmas.

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