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**Ervin Here for
Watergate Talk**

Retired U.S. Senator Sam Ervin said yesterday he doesn't mind Watergate scandal figures traveling about the country making money on the lecture circuit, but he doubts he'd ever listen to any of them.

"I wouldn't pay 15 cents to see Ron Ziegler," the 78-year-old former chairman of the Watergate committee remarked at the St. Francis Hotel. "but if people want to spend money to hear what they say, it's all right by me."

Ervin, who retired from politics January 20 to take up private law practice in Morgantown, in his home state of North Carolina, will speak tonight at 7:30 at the University of San Francisco.

He was asked a number of wide-ranging questions yesterday, including his reaction to the early release of John Dean, Herbert Kalmbach and Jeb Magruder.

"I thought Judge Sirica was justified," he said, "the ones who were released cooperated with the investigation. I think the courts have been fairly lenient."

Would he have pardoned former President Nixon?

"No!" he retorted, "The Almighty can't pardon anybody unless he asks forgiveness for his sins. Ford made a serious mistake."

"I have great compassion," he said, "but it doesn't do much for our sys-



SAM ERVIN
'Ford made a mistake . . .'

tem of justice when the head man is let off and his men go off to prison. I think the House (of Representatives) should have gone on with the impeachment."

Ervin also said further investigations into Watergate era corporate campaign contributions would be a good idea.

"For example," he said, "we need further study of exactly what happened to the (Howard) Hughes money Bebe Rebozo said he kept in a safe deposit box without interest — that's something bankers don't do."

Ervin said the great lesson Watergate taught is the need for a free press in a democracy.