

Judge Urges Full Probe of Watergate

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The judge in the recently concluded Watergate bugging trial said yesterday he hoped congressional investigators would "get to the bottom" of the political espionage case.

In remarks in open court, Chief United States District Judge John J. Sirica said he was speaking "not only as a judge but as a citizen of a great country and one of millions of Americans who are looking for certain answers."

"I'm still not satisfied that all of the pertinent facts that might be available have been produced before an American jury," Sirica said in reference to the 22-day trial.

He also suggested that

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government prosecutors call back several witnesses before a federal grand jury for further closed-door testimony on the bugging of Democratic National Committee headquarters last May and June.

NAMES

Sirica said he had furnished specific names to the government but ordered they not be revealed.

Sirica's remarks were considered a rarity because judges do not often express public dissatisfaction with information developed in their courtrooms.

His comments occurred at a hearing in which he set bond at \$100,000 for former GOP campaign officials G. Gordon Liddy and James W. McCord Jr., who were convicted by a jury last Tuesday of conspiracy, bugging and burglary charges.

Sirica, who was appointed to the federal bench by President Eisenhower, noted that the Senate is planning to conduct hearings into the Watergate affair and related political espionage allegations.

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He said:

"I would hope frankly, not only as a judge but as a citizen of a great country and one of millions of Americans who are looking for certain answers—I would hope that the Senate committee is granted power by Congress by a broad enough resolution to try to get to the bottom of what happened in this case."

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.) has been selected by Senate Democrats to head a special inquiry.

"I've been accused of being an investigator, prosecutor and judge," said the 69-year-old Sirica, noting that defense attorneys are planning to appeal Liddy's and McCord's convictions on grounds the judge favored the prosecution.