

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6,

SENATORS PRESS WATERGATE PLAN

5-Member Panel Proposed to Investigate Affairs

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5—Senate Democratic leaders moved today to set up a five-member select committee with a broad mandate to investigate the Watergate affair and related charges of political sabotage during the 1972 Presidential primaries and election.

Senators Sam J. Ervin Jr. of North Carolina and Mike Mansfield of Montana introduced a resolution that would grant the committee wide latitude, subpoena powers and a budget of \$500,000. The resolution was expected to be adopted by the Senate tomorrow.

Mr. Ervin, who has already been designated by the Senate Democratic Conference to chair the committee, pledged that it would conduct "a fair and full

investigation" without attempting to engage in a political "witch hunt."

The sole objective, Mr. Ervin said, "is to try to find out the truth of this matter."

Even so, the language of the resolution, which Senator Ervin drafted, is aimed directly at a number of allegations that the White House or the Committee for the Re-election of the President was involved in widespread spying on Democratic candidates last year and possibly in sabotage of their campaigns.

The resolution specifically directs the select committee to explore whether five defendants had been "induced by bribery, coercion, threats or any other means" to plead guilty to charges of burglary and wire-

tapping at the Watergate trial last month.

And it calls for investigation into the source of funds that financed activities of the five defendants and of two former officials of President Nixon's political organization who were found guilty last week by a Federal court jury of involvement in the break-in at the Democratic party's headquarters in June, 1972.