

Senate Votes Watergate Probe

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The Senate yesterday approved 77 to 0 a sweeping investigation into the Watergate bugging and all allegations of political spying in the 1972 presidential election.

Action came after a four-hour debate during which Republicans unsuccessfully attempted to broaden the scope of the inquiry to include the 1964 and 1968 presidential elections.

Three Republican sources said that White House officials, including President Nixon's No. 1 assistant, H. R. Haldeman, actively assisted in efforts to get the Senate to shift the focus of the investigations away from the widespread allegations of a White House-led spying campaign in 1972.

Three Republican amendments to the resolution authorizing the investigation were voted down yesterday, and Republican senators carefully raised the possibility of future charges that the investigation may be a witch hunt.

Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) said the inquiry could become an "inquisition into rumor and substance and lack of substance." As the Democratic majority refused to allow equal representation of Republicans on the special Watergate investigative committee, Scott said: "What we see is the power of the majority saying ... you must give them unheard of powers to pursue any rumor or unsubstantiated allegations."

Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) told a reporter yesterday that the Republican maneuvering was an attempt "to tie up the Democratic freedom of action without the appearance of ob-

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day will allocate \$500,000 for a special seven-member select committee to probe the Watergate allegations and report back to the full Senate within one year.

Four of the select committee members will be Democrats and three Republicans. As originally drafted the resolution called for a five member committee, but Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.), selected by Senate Democrats to head the inquiry, yesterday agreed to expand the size to seven.

Sen. Scott requested the expansion and Ervin agreed after the full Senate voted down 45 to 35 a Republican amendment calling for a committee made up equally of three Democrats and three Republicans.

Republicans won on one amendment, granting them one-third of the professional staff and a minority counsel to the select committee.

In addition, the leadership of both parties agreed to restrict the access of the committee staff to raw FBI reports that may be subpoenaed during the course of the inquiry. As approved, only the majority counsel and minority counsel would have access to the FBI reports unless the committee chairman and the ranking minority member agree to extend access to other staff members.

Two Republican staff assistants said yesterday that the Senators they work for had received word from the White House that a maximum effort should be made to broaden the scope of the inquiry to 1964 and 1968.

A third source, who works in the White House, said that White House chief of staff Haldeman was making sure that the word got out to the Republican minority that the proposed inquiry could prove embarrassing and that it should be "watered down."

The Justice Department had a staff lawyer working with the Republicans Tuesday and yesterday to assist in the drafting of the amendments designed to shift the focus of the inquiry. Sources on Capitol Hill said that the Justice

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Department attorney has previously provided such technical assistance.

During debate on the resolution yesterday, Sen. Scott charged that it is "the broadest resolution I've ever seen ... wild, unbelievable" and one that could lead to "blackmail" if its powers are misused by committee staff members.

Scott said that a Republican senator, whom he did not name, had a "phone call that was electronically bugged" during the 1964 election. He said there have been "many instances" of such electronic surveillance in political campaigns.

Scott had raised the issue

earlier yesterday with reporters and charged that in 1968 "there was wholesale evidence of wiretapping against the Republicans." He declined to give specifics.

Sen. John Tower (R-Tex.) cited what he said were "strong indications and assertions by responsible persons that there was electronic eavesdropping in those (1964 and 1968) campaigns." He also cited no specifics.

In a prepared statement, Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) said that the inquiry into political spying should look into "similar incidents perpetrated by people working for Democratic candidates." Goldwater did not cite a specific example either.

Responding to these assertions, Sen. Ervin said, "I've never seen any charges about the elections of 1964 and 1968."

Sen. Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.) sounded a common note found in the Republican speeches yesterday when he said that "both political parties do this (spy), Democrats as much as Republicans."

John Ehrlichman, the President's top domestic adviser, said essentially the same thing Oct. 15 during a period when news accounts said that the White House had been involved in an elaborate political spying campaign directed against Democrats.

Ehrlichman said that any

such spying was not of a serious nature and has "been in American politics since I can remember."

While attempting to amend the Watergate resolution yesterday, Senate Republicans made it clear that they did not oppose an investigation. They affirmed that by unanimously voting for the final resolution.

The authorization to conduct the year-long Senate probe with public hearings comes nearly eight months after June 17 when five men were arrested inside the Democrats' Watergate headquarters.

In September, those five men and two former White House aides were indicted in the Watergate bugging case. Last month five of the men pleaded guilty and the two others were convicted of all charges against them in the case.

Sen. Ervin has made it clear that he intends to probe into charges beyond the Watergate bugging, including those that deal with California attorney Donald H. Segretti, who allegedly conducted a vast campaign of political spying and sabotage.

There was no indication yesterday who the Democratic majority and Republican minority might appoint to serve on the select committee.



H. R. HALDEMAN
... tried to shift focus

structing the investigation and to some extent to lay the groundwork for witch-hunt charges."

The resolution as approved yester-