117/73

By Lawrence Meyer. Washington Post Staff Writer

that grand jury minutes from mittee. the Watergate investigation Principal Assistant U.S. At-

leged acts of political espion-willing to take to make sure age and sabotage, asked Sirica the grand jury minutes are Sen Sam J. Erwin (D.N.C.) on Feb. 13 to make the grand kept secret and citing legal assured Chief U.S. District jury minutes and other docu-authortiy that would allow Judge John J. Sirica yesterday ments available to the com-Sirica to turn them over to

will be kept secret and secure torney Earl J. Silbert filed a Court may retain custody of if they are turned over to the motion in response to Ervin's the minutes if it wishes, perspecial Senate committee that request saying he favored mitting only members of the is conducting its own investi- turning the grand jury mingation.

The committee and "a designee of the chairman" to have access Ervin, chairman of the sev- but questioning whether Sirica to them, forbidding any copy-

the committee.

Ervin said the U.S. District en-member, bipartisan select had the legal authority to do ing of the minutes, and allowcommittee appointed to investigate the bugging of the Ervin responded yesterday cretion in excising portions of Democratic Party's Watergate by filing a four-page brief the documents "having to do headquarters, and other al- outlining the steps he was with a continuing investiga-

tion if the court determines cess to the grand jury minthat the select committee's utes. access to such portions would Seven persons, including

tion."

and extraordinary" nature of Watergate headquarters. the committee investigation law to give the committee ac-sentencing by Sirica.

interfere with such investiga- two former White House aides and the former security direc-"Under no circumstances," tor for the Committee for the Ervin said, would the grand were indicted on charges of jury minutes or sealed por conspiracy, burglary and iltions of the Watergate trial legal wiretapping and eavestranscripts be made public dropping stemming from the without court approval.

June 17 break in at the Demo-Ervin said that the "unique cratic National Committee's ..

All seven were either conrepresents the kind of "com-victed or pleaded guilty to the pelling necessity" required by charges and are now awaiting