

# Ervin Talks Of Nixon Statement

Brevard, N.C.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. said yesterday he has no idea what President Nixon will say in a statement he is expected to make on Watergate this week.

Nor, said the North Carolina Democrat, does he know whether he'll respond. "It depends on what he's got to say," Ervin commented.

The 72-year-old senator, who heads the Watergate investigating committee, took advantage of a recess in the hearings to attend a county fish fry.

Later, he told newsmen he would rather the President be cross-examined by a congressional committee or the news media instead of relying on a statement, which he said can "both conceal and reveal."

He added: "I think that (a news conference) would be much preferable to a written or telecast statement.

"The Washington news media can ask both pertinent and impertinent questions," he said.

Ervin reiterated that he has an open mind on the question of the President's involvement in the Watergate break-in and coverup.

*Associated Press*