

WXPost DEC 6 1973

Watergate Jury Gets Six-Month Extension

United Press International

The Watergate grand jury, which was to expire yesterday, has been given a new lease on life by Congress, President Nixon and Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica.

Sirica's formal order was made public Tuesday, extending the grand jury's life until next June 4, "unless earlier discharged in accordance with law."

Federal grand juries by law have a maximum tenure of 18 months. But when the grand jury investigating the bugging scandal found its work undone and its life due to end Dec. 5, it asked if special legislation could not be enacted to let it keep going.

Congress responded with a law—signed by Mr. Nixon last Friday—giving Sirica power to extend the grand jury's life for six months, with another six months optional

The 23-member grand jury was sworn in to handle routine criminal matters June 5, 1972—12 days before the bugging arrests at Democratic Party headquarters—but has concentrated almost exclusively on the Watergate case.

Its only indictments thus far have been of the "Watergate Seven" conspirators Sept. 15, 1972, all of whom pleaded guilty or were convicted last January.