

Judy Miller, Pacifica Washington Bureau:

U.S. District Judge Charles Richey said today that it will be impossible to bring the Democrats' civil suit in the Watergate bugging case to trial before the November 7th presidential election. At the same time Richey said he will extend his order, halting the taking of all depositions, until the seven men charged in a criminal indictment in connection with the June 17th Watergate break-in have been tried.

Richey's announcement virtually rules out disclosure in court of any significant new information about the Watergate case before the election. Richey said because rules of civil procedure allow a broader range of questioning than rules of criminal procedure, he was forced to halt the taking of depositions in the civil suit in order to protect the constitutional rights of the seven defendants under criminal indictment.

[Complete.]