

Civil Cases

Demo Break-In-- All Suits Delayed

Washington

Federal Judge Charles R. Richey yesterday ordered an indefinite stay of all proceedings in the legal battle between the Democratic and Republican parties arising from the alleged bugging of the Democratic national headquarters.

Following a closed six-hour conference with ten lawyers representing all parties in the complicated dispute, Judge Richey announced that general agreement had been reached that none of the three separate civil suits could be prepared for trial before the November 7 presidential election.

The judge then ordered that the taking of more than 40 pre-trial depositions requested by lawyers for both sides be suspended until further order, which he indicated would not come until after completion of a pending criminal trial in the case.

INDICTMENT

Last week, a federal grand jury indicted seven men, including the five arrested during a break-in attempt in the Democrat's offices on June 17, on charges of tapping telephones, planting eavesdropping devices and photographing stolen documents in the Watergate offices.

Also named in the eight-count indictment were E. Howard Hunt Jr., and G. Gordon Liddy, two former White House aides. Both of the civil actions stayed yesterday.

"It has become patently obvious," Judge Richey said following the conference, "that the court's wish and hope that these cases would be tried before the election is impossible — and counsel for the parties have indicated that they agree with the court in regard to this conclusion."

HOPES

Lawyers for Lawrence F. O'Brien, the former Democratic party chairman who is plaintiff in a \$3.2 million suit against Maurice H. Stans, the Republican party's chief fund-raiser, Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former Nixon campaign treasurer, and Hunt and Liddy, had hoped to bring that suit to trial in time to produce revelations that might benefit the presidential candidacy of Senator George McGovern.

But the number of depositions yet to be taken and pending motions not yet disposed of now appear to make this impossible.

The other two suits affected by yesterday's order are a \$5 million libel action by

Stans against O'Brien and a second suit, also by Stans, charging O'Brien with abusing the judicial process for political" purposes.

KLEINDIENST

Meanwhile, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said that an electronic bugging device found last week on the office telephone of a Democratic party official had been put there some time after the June 17 break-in.

Kleindienst said yesterday in an interview on the Public Television Network's Elizabeth Drew program that the FBI had made a "sweep" of the party's Watergate offices following the break-in.

He said the FBI investigation, made immediately after the break-in to find any undiscovered listening devices had discovered "one or two left" but one on the telephone used by R. Spencer Oliver the party's coordinator of the Democratic State Chairmen's Association.

The bugging device discovered by the Democrats last week was on Oliver's telephone so Kleindienst concluded that "somebody put something on that telephone since the FBI was there." *N.Y. Times Service*