

McG, Mansfield Challenge

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — A federal judge's sweeping order yesterday banning public statements about the bugging of the Democratic National Committee offices by anyone connected with the case was challenged by Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield today as unwise and illegal.

Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern also said he would continue to talk about the break-in and bugging.

The order was issued by U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica, who conceded when questioned by a reporter that it could possibly apply to McGovern and other political candidates and conceivably create questions about news media discussion of the case.

Raise Questions

Sirica said if such questions were raised they would be dealt with "at the proper time."

Mansfield and McGovern raised them quickly.

Mansfield said, "I have grave doubts about the wisdom and legality of the judge's dictum. He's painted his position with too broad a brush. It's an infringement on the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and a free press.

McGovern issued a statement saying he discussed the order with Democratic lawyers and concluded that it could not force him to stop talking about the break-in and bugging at the Watergate complex in Washington June 17.

Campaign Issue

Mansfield was asked if the case was a legitimate campaign issue. "That's up to

the candidates," he said, "but in this campaign evidently anything is legitimate."

The Senate's senior Republican, George Aiken of Vermont, also questioned the order, calling it futile.

"The order could not extend to members of Congress in any case," Aiken told a reporter. "And how's he going to enforce it against 200 million people? It's a futile order."

Interview Published

A few hours before the order, the Los Angeles Times published an interview with Alfred C. Baldwin, an admit-

Judge's Gag

ted participant in the bugging whose testimony to a grand jury was followed by indictment of seven persons.

Sirica and his order was aimed at protecting the rights of the defendants. He said he intended to make it "as broad as I could."

The order encompasses "such matters as extrajudicial statements by parties and witnesses likely to interfere with the rights of the

accused to a fair trial by an impartial jury ... and any other matters which the court may deem appropriate for inclusion."

he request for the order was made by an attorney for one of the defendants.

Mansfield observed:

The request for the order then the people have to rely on government handouts for their news. If you have a muzzled press you have a muzzled democracy."