

Watergate Gag Is Defied

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Democratic lawyers asked a federal judge today to clarify his order restricting comment in the Watergate bugging case, and said they would continue talking about the affair unless specifically told to stop.

Lawrence O'Brien, Sen. George McGovern's campaign chairman, said, "we are going to continue what we have been doing ... to discuss all aspects of the

case."

McGovern had said immediately after issuance of the order Wednesday that he would not stop discussing the case.

O'Brien said the order handed down by U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica — banning public comment by anyone directly concerned with the case — was a "gag rule" that violated the Constitution.

The Los Angeles Times

said there were indications that Sirica's order was an attempt to prevent it from publishing an account of the Watergate incident by one of the participants.

The Times yesterday published a lengthy story based on an interview with Alfred C. Baldwin III, who has said he transcribed conversations from bugging equipment placed in Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate Building.