

Judge Seeks Wider Probe Of Bugging

Washington

The judge who will preside at the trial of seven men charged in connection with the break-in and alleged bugging of Democratic headquarters at the Watergate said yesterday the trial should cover a broader area than the narrow limits the prosecution has indicated it will cover.

The comments by Judge John J. Sirica during a pre-trial conference were the first indication that the trial may explore whether the seven men charged were operating on orders from higher authorities when they allegedly conspired to break in and bug the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters June 17.

"This jury is going to want to know what did these men go into that headquarters for?" Chief U.S. District Judge Sirica said. "Was their sole purpose political espionage? Were they paid? Was there financial gain? Who hired them? Who started this?"

According to federal investigators, the June 17 break-in was one incident in a year-long campaign to spy on and disrupt Democratic presidential campaigns on behalf of President Nixon's re-election.

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