

Jury Is Completed for Trial of 7 in the Watergate Case

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (AP)—A jury of eight women and four men was selected today to hear the trial of seven men charged in connection with the break-in and alleged bugging of the Democratic National Committee headquarters last summer.

The panel, which includes seven black women and three black men, was agreed to by opposing attorneys after two days of questioning of an initial group of about 250 persons, who almost all said they had knowledge of the highly publicized case.

At one point in the proceedings, with the pool of potential jurors down to 98, the group was asked how many had heard about the Watergate case before going to the court, and all but nine stood.

The Democratic headquarters

were in the Watergate complex here when the break-in occurred June 17.

In apparent preparation for an appeal, the defense asked that the record show there was widespread familiarity with the case.

Alternate Jurors Chosen

Later, six alternate jurors were chosen to replace any regular jurors who might drop out during the long trial. With jury selection complete, testimony was expected to begin tomorrow.

After almost two days of preliminary screening, Judge John J. Sirica of the Federal District Court limited lawyers to peremptory challenges without further questioning.

A defense attorney, Gerald Alch, called Judge Sirica's rul-

ing irregular and said that it would be one of his grounds for appeal in the event of a conviction.

The judge appeared incredulous that some jurors had not heard of the case and questioned them individually.

"Incredible," Judge Sirica said when one middle-aged woman insisted she had never heard of the case that began last June when five of the defendants were arrested inside the Democratic headquarters. The case became an issue in the Presidential election.

Jurors Are Questioned

After Judge Sirica asked which jurors had heard about the case, he then retired with lawyers in the case to an antechamber where each member of the jury panel was ques-

tioned privately about his knowledge of the Watergate case and whether it would influence his verdict.

Defense lawyers have asked Judge Sirica to move the trial to another city because of the great amount of publicity surrounding it.

On trial are G. Gordon Liddy, a former White House and Treasury aide who was counsel for the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President; E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former White House consultant; James W. McCord Jr., who was security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-election of the President; Bernard L. Barker, a Miami real estate executive; and Eugenio R. Martinez, Frank A. Sturgis and Virgilio R. Gonzales, Miami associates of Mr. Barker.