

Lead Probe of Watergate

Washington

Senate Democrats yesterday unanimously named Senator Sam Ervin (Dem-N.C.), a former judge, to head a major Senate investigation into alleged political espionage and sabotage by Republicans during the 1972 election campaign.

Ervin, among other things, will investigate the bugging of the Democratic party headquarters at the Watergate hotel complex last June. Seven men are on trial on charges arising from the case.

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield also said Ervin will probe the "phony letters" circulated during Democratic primaries early last year to undermine the presidential bids of Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine, Henry Jackson of Washington and Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota.

The drive by Senate Democrats to go ahead with a full-scale investigation was fueled by reports that the offices of Mansfield and some other leading Democrats had been electronically bugged.

Reuters
