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The States-Item prints the news impartially. It supports what it believes to be right. It opposes what it believes to be wrong, without regard to party politics.

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Get Watergate facts

More than ever, there is a need to get at all the facts concerning the break-in of the Democratic party's Watergate headquarters in Washington.

The Watergate affair is much more than the election year hijinks portrayed by the Republican hierarchy. It is an assault on the democratic process.

It is impossible to think otherwise following the latest developments.

E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former White House consultant for the Nixon Administration, has pleaded guilty to all six charges in connection with the Watergate case. The charges cover conspiracy, burglary, bugging and wiretapping.

In another development, the Justice Department Thursday accused the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President of mishandling campaign funds. The eight-count criminal charge filed against the President's finance committee charged that the committee, through its treasurer, gave G. Gordon Liddy, a legal adviser to the committee, thousands of dollars without any accounting of the funds.

Mr. Liddy, it should be pointed out, is a defendant in the Watergate case.

There is growing pressure for total disclosure in connection with the political espionage operation.

Federal District Judge John J. Sirica, who is hearing the Watergate case, has indicated he wants

to get at the facts behind this bizarre chapter in the history of American politics.

"This jury is going to want to know somewhere along the line, what did these men go into the headquarters for," the judge said recently. "What was their purpose? Who hired them to go there?"

The Justice Department has indicated that the answers to these questions may not be necessary to prosecute what is, to them, just another "street crime."

There is hope that all the facts may come to light, even if the trial does not produce them.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield has informed key committee chairmen that he would support an extensive congressional investigation of the incident and events related to it.

"Watergate was not politics as usual," he observed in one of the great understatements of the new year.

Five of the men still on trial were arrested at gunpoint inside the Democratic headquarters shortly after 2 a.m. on June 17, 1972. One of those caught is Walter McCord Jr. who, at the time, was serving as a security official of both the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and the Republican National Committee.

Whether by trial or congressional investigation, the truth about the Watergate affair should become part of the public record.