

U.S. Rests Watergate Case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government rested its case in the Watergate political espionage trial today.

The government rested after calling 51 witnesses including seven members of President Nixon's White House and campaign staffs and two officials of the Democratic party.

The case grew out of the break-in and alleged bugging of the Democratic headquarters in the Watergate building complex last June 17.

The defense was expected to complete its presentation briefly, and presiding U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica scheduled closing arguments for both sides in the afternoon.

Sirica said he would deliver his charge to the jury, which will run some 40 pages, at the opening of court Tuesday. The case then would go immediately to the jury.

The government wound up with only two witnesses today — White House lawyer Fred Fielding and Democratic official R. Spencer Oliver.

Oliver testified only briefly, but said his telephone at Democratic National Committee offices in the Watergate complex was tapped.

Oliver, who is executive director of the Association of State Democratic Chairmen, was asked on cross examination by defense attorney Peter Maroulis if he had "ever been the object of blackmail."

Although Oliver answered the questions with a "No," Sirica ordered the jury to disregard the question and answer. And Oliver left the stand, the last of the government witnesses.

FIELDING, AN associate counsel to President Nixon, testified about the opening of a safe in the Executive Office Building used by E. Howard Hunt, a former White House consultant who has pleaded guilty in the Watergate case.

The trial moved into its fourth week today.

The prosecution had presented 49 witnesses by the close of Friday's session. The remaining defendants are G. Gordon Liddy, former counsel to President Nixon's campaign finance committee, and James W. McCord Jr., Nixon's campaign security chief.

Initially, Asst. U.S. Atty. Earl J. Sil-

bert planned to call 60 witnesses in the prosecution of seven men charged in connection with the break-in and the bugging of Democratic party headquarters on June 17.

But five of the defendants pleaded guilty and the number of witnesses was reduced. The trial started Jan. 8.

FORMER White House consultant E. Howard Hunt pleaded guilty just after the jury was selected. Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez, Frank A. Sturgis and Virgilio R. Gonzalez, all from Miami, pleaded guilty a few days later.