

IMPARTIAL INQUIRY IS VOWED BY ERVIN

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G.O.P. Decides Not to Fight
Panel on Watergate

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 6—Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., who has been chosen by Senate Democrats to head an investigation into all aspects of the Watergate case, promised today that he would conduct the inquiry "without partisan considerations."

Referring to his years as a judge in the state courts in North Carolina, Senator Ervin told the Senate that he would "approach the performance of the task in exactly the same fashion as I attempted to perform my duties on the bench."

Earlier today, Senate Republicans decided not to oppose the creation of a special committee to investigate the bugging of the Democratic party's national headquarters in the Watergate office building and other allegations of espionage. In the 1972 Presidential campaign.

However, the Republicans have amendments that they want to offer to a resolution creating the five-man committee that would handle the investigation, and they prevented a vote on the resolution today.

But there was no doubt that the resolution would be approved and that the inquiry, under Senator Ervin's leadership, would begin within weeks.

The other four members of the committee—two Democrats and two Republicans—will not be chosen until the resolution is adopted.

Senator John G. Tower of Texas, chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, said that Republicans did not "face this investigation with any degree of trepidation, so long as it is fairly conducted, as—under Sam Ervin—we are sure it will be."

Senator Tower added, however, that he believed that most of the facts had come out in the recently concluded trial of the five men arrested in the Watergate break-in, and two others who were convicted of conspiring in the burglary.

But Senator Ervin contended that "much evidence was not revealed" in the trial, in which five of the seven pleaded guilty, and he noted that a Congressional committee had much more latitude than a court "to seek out the facts."

The North Carolina Democrat promised that, during the investigation, he would not "engage in any witch-hunts," but added:

"At the same time, I promise to do everything in my power to see that the