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# Senate Votes Inquiry on Espionage Against Democrats

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 7—The Senate voted today, 70 to 0, to undertake a full-scale investigation of the Watergate bugging case and of reported efforts to sabotage the campaigns of Democratic Presidential candidates last spring.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. introduced the resolution to set up a seven-man select committee to look into the extent of illegal, improper or unethical activities in the campaign.

The inquiry will be by far the broadest yet into the bugging and alleged political sabotage operations that have been linked by news reports to members of President Nixon's reelection campaign.

Although none of the Senate committee's four Democratic and three Republican members have yet been named, it is certain that Mr. Ervin, a North Carolina Democrat, will be asked by the Senate Democratic leadership to act as chairman.

The only Republican Senators who, from their remarks on the floor, seemed eager to join the select committee were Howard H. Baker Jr. of Tennessee and Ted Stevens of Alaska.

### 3 Amendments Defeated

Although all Republican Senators present today voted for the resolution, and although many of them proclaimed in the debate on the measure that they wanted to get to the bottom of the Watergate case, there were sometimes bitter charges that Mr. Ervin and the Democrats were trying to use the investigation for partisan political purposes.

The Republicans offered three amendments, all unsuccessful, to make their rep-

resentation on the committee equal to that of the Democrats and to broaden the scope of the hearings to include the 1964 and 1968 Presidential elections.

However, Mr. Ervin offered to amend his resolution to increase the committee's total membership from five Senators to seven. He also agreed to a request by Senator John G. Tower of Texas, chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, to include a provision giving the minority members the use of one-third of the committee's professional staff.

The Ervin resolution directs the committee to examine not only all aspects of the Watergate bugging, including who planned and paid for it, but also the extent of the sort of political sabotage activities that have been attributed to Donald H. Segretti, a young

California lawyer with reputed White House connections. Mr. Segretti has never been directly connected with the Watergate case, which led to five guilty pleas and two convictions growing out of the bugging and bugging at Democratic headquarters.

### Panel May Call Segretti

It has been reported, however, that he is under Congressional subpoena, and one source said today that he would almost certainly be called before the Ervin committee.

The Senate hearings, for which no starting date has yet been set, will reach other questions left unanswered by the criminal trial, including whether any campaign-related funds were used for any illicit operations.

At one point in the debate today, Mr. Tower said that he

feared "the evil that would result from setting a precedent here" by allowing the major party in the Senate to dominate a committee looking into activities connected to the opposing party.

But Mr. Ervin recited a long list of previous select and special committees of the Senate on which the majority party had been given greater representation, including that one that investigated the activities of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, in the nineteen-fifties.

Mr. Ervin said that he would "dislike to be the chairman" of a committee that did not have the power "to make the decisions it has to make" and he repeated his pledge of yesterday that, if chosen as its chairman, he would "act with the total neutrality of the impartial judge."

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