

Senate Names 7 Lawyers To Watergate Probe Panel

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Seven senators, all lawyers and four of them from the South, were named yesterday to the Senate's select committee to investigate the Watergate bugging and allegations of related political espionage.

The Senate Democratic leadership named four members—Sens. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (N.C.), as chairman of the committee, Joseph M. Montoya (N.M.), Herman E. Talmadge (Ga.), and Daniel K. Inouye (Hawaii).

The Republican leadership named the other three—Sens. Howard H. Baker (Tenn.), Edward J. Gurney (Fla.) and Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (Conn.).

Sen. Baker, 47, the ranking minority member on the committee, said that "it will be a matter of days, not weeks, before we begin our operations."

As ranking minority member, Baker will oversee Republican interests in the probe that now seems almost certain to involve some former and present aides to President Nixon.

Baker told reporters yesterday



HOWARD H. BAKER
... "matter of days"

day that he favors "a full, thorough and fair investigation with no holds barred, let the chips fall where they will."

On Wednesday when the full Senate approved the investigation in a 77-to-0 vote, Baker sought unsuccessfully to obtain equal representation of Republicans on the committee. With a 4-to-3 Democratic

majority, he said, the investigation was "starting out with a stacked deck."

However, yesterday Baker said he accepted the ranking GOP role "with the assumption that the investigation will be fair, thorough, full and impartial."

Baker added that he expected the "full cooperation" of the White House, the Justice Department and other federal departments and agencies. The resolution establishing the committee grants it the power to subpoena any person or information from the executive branch, including the White House, CIA and FBI.

On Wednesday, Baker said on the Senate floor that Republicans would not oppose subpoenas if "even the remotest" reason for summons was established.

Sam Weicker, a 41-year-old Republican with a reputation for independence, said yesterday that his "goal is to ensure a thorough and objective investigation is conducted and that no one in the nation can

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brand its findings the result of either a witch hunt or a white-wash."

On the Senate floor Wednesday, however, Weicker argued for equal representation of Republicans and said the Democratic majority on the committee could render its work "meaningless."

The third Republican member, Sen. Gurney, 58, was a surrogate campaigner for President Nixon last year and has close ties to the White House. During Senate debate on the investigation resolution Wednesday, Gurney read data from political polls showing that the public didn't have an interest in the Watergate affair.

He said that political spying is done by both political parties, "Democrats as much as Republicans."

In selecting their four committee members, the Demo-

cratic leadership appeared to avoid choosing some of its more partisan members or any with immediate presidential ambitions.

Sen. Ervin, a 76-year-old former judge, was selected to chair the committee, partly because of his relatively nonpartisan reputation and his firm belief in the right to privacy.

Sen. Inouye, 48, is likely to emerge as a tough member of the committee. He gained a reputation for his hard-hitting investigations of the D.C. government while chairman of the Senate District Appropriations Subcommittee from 1971-72.

Sen. Talmadge, 59, who is generally considered one of the most intelligent members of the Senate, said yesterday that the investigation should be conducted in "a totally nonpartisan and objective manner... let the chips fall where they may."

Sen. Montoya, 57, the fourth Democratic committee member, offered the most ambitious statement about the committee, saying yesterday that he expects the members "will

be able to sift through the facts and come up with a complete story of just what was involved and just who was involved, in addition, if any, to those already named."

Nixon Aide Denies Getting 'Bug' Data

Charles W. Colson, special counsel to President Nixon, said yesterday that he never received any wiretapped information in connection with the Watergate bugging or other spying against the Democrats.

An article in yesterday's Washington Post noted that, in a deposition before Democratic attorneys last summer, Colson declined to answer whether he had received information from a "confidential informant" after he was told that the term is frequently used to refer to information obtained through wiretapping.

Colson said on the Today Show (WRC-TV) yesterday that he would have been "perfectly happy to answer"

the question but lawyers "all agreed that I should not answer." He criticized The Post for failing to "print any of the preliminary discussion (between the lawyers) that led up to my refusing to answer that question," and said, "I never saw any such information."