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By Lawrence Meyer.

Washington Post Staff Writer that grand jury minutes from mittee. the Watergate investigation Principal Assistant U.S. Atwill be kept secret and secure torney Earl J. Silbert filed a Court may retain custody of

leged acts of political espion- willing to take to make sure

age and sabotage, asked Sirica the grand jury minutes, are Sen Sam J. Ervin (D.N.C.) on Feb. 13 to make the grand kept secret and citing legal assured Chief U.S. District jury minutes and other docu-Judge John J. Sirica yesterday ments available to the com-Sirica to turn them over to the committee. 1.16

Ervin said the U.S. District if they are turned over to the motion in response to Ervin's the minutes if it wishes, perspecial Senate committee that request saying he favored mitting only members of the is conducting its own investi-gation. Ervin, chairman of the sev- but questioning whether Sirica to them, forbidding any copyen-member, bipartisan select had the legal authority to do ing of the minutes, and allowcommittee appointed to inves-tigate the bugging of the Democratic Party's Watergate by filing a four-page brief the documents "having to do

headquarters, and other al- outlining the steps he was with a continuing investiga-

tion if the court determines cess to the grand fury minthat the select committee's utes. access to such portions would Seven persons, including interfere with such investiga- two former White House aides tion."

and extraordinary" nature of Watergate headquarters. the committee investigation pelling necessity" required by charges and are now awaiting

and the former security direc-"Under no circumstances," for for the Committee for the Ervin said, would the grand were indicted on charges of jury minutes or sealed por conspiracy, burglary and iltions of the Watergate trial legal wiretapping and eavestranscripts be made public dropping stemming from the without court approval. June 17 break in at the Demo-Ervin said that the "unique cratic National Committee's

All seven were either conrepresents the kind of "com- victed or pleaded guilty to the law to give the committee ac-isentencing by Sirica.