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Complete Hearings On Public TV Net

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Uninterrupted start-to-finish coverage of the Senate Watergate hearings is planned by the nation's public television network.

The Public Broadcasting Service and its producer, the National Public Affairs Center for Television, said yesterday its coverage would be the only gavel-to-gavel offering.

However, the nation's commercial networks are expected to devote substantial time to the hearings.

The hearings by the Senate Select Committee on Presidential campaign activities are scheduled to start May 15.

Jim Karayn, the NPACT president, said the Watergate hearings are "precisely the kind of event which public television should put before the American viewer.

"By providing complete coverage of these hearings, . millions will be able to see that the hearings have a significance far beyond alleged wrongdoings by a political party."

The scope of the May hearings may be reduced if some of the key figures are indicted by a federal grand jury in connection with the espionage raid last June on the Democratic national headquarters in Washington. Persons facing trial would not be required to testify.