

SENATE'S INQUIRY WILL BEGIN TODAY

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Ervin Foresees 'Startling
Revelations' on Watergate

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WASHINGTON, May 16—A wide-ranging and potentially epic investigation of the reported effort last year to subvert the Presidential election campaign begins tomorrow on Capitol Hill.

The Senate Watergate committee, a seven-member panel under Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, is scheduled to hear its first public testimony at 10 A.M. in the caucus room of the Old Senate Office Building.

The sessions could have a broad impact on the way American campaigns are financed and run, on the futures of many prominent political leaders, and on the immediate fortunes of Richard Nixon.

They begin exactly 11 months after the Watergate affair first arose with the arrest of five obscure men who had broken into Democratic headquarters in an elaborate eavesdropping operation.

The 76-year-old committee chairman said today at a news conference in Brunswick, Me.,

Continued on Page 34, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

that he expected "some startling revelations" from the long inquiry.

Most sources expect a relatively slow start. They predict a painstaking effort to piece together the more obscure parts of the complex scandal as well as to question the political personalities involved.

The hearings, to be televised nationally in at least the initial stages, will run off and on throughout the summer. Some officials think the sessions will run into the fall as well.

After opening statements by some or all of the seven Senators, the committee will turn tomorrow to witnesses intended to outline some of the background of the 1972 campaign.

Robert C. Odle Jr., director of administration for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, will be asked about the organization of Mr. Nixon's political apparatus and about the personalities who ran it.

He will be followed by Bruce A. Kehrli, staff secretary to the President, who is scheduled to explain the structure and the political operations of the White House.

Sources of Disclosures

The third witness, Sgt. Paul W. Leeper, is a Washington policeman who will be asked to describe the arrest of five men inside the Watergate offices of the Democratic National Committee early in the morning of June 17 by himself and two colleagues.

It was this capture of James W. McCord Jr. and four other conspirators that produced, over the last 11 months, increasingly sensational disclosures of illegal and improper Republican campaign activities.

Except for a narrowly based criminal trial in January and some pretrial testimony in civil lawsuits growing out of the Watergate arrests, the disclosures have often come from unidentified sources.

Even a Watergate figure as familiar as McCord, who is cooperating actively with the investigators, has not yet told his story in an open forum where the public can size him up.

McCord, who was security

coordinator for the Nixon committee at the time of his arrest, is the fourth witness expected at the hearings. Whether he will testify tomorrow or Friday is uncertain.

The Watergate panel, known formally as the Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, has divided its investigation, limited to the 1972 campaign, into three principal areas.

It expects to deal first principally with the effort by McCord, his convicted co-conspirators, and any others to wiretap and bug the Democratic opposition in May and June last year.

This first phase also includes the far more explosive subject of an alleged effort by ranking White House officials to cover up Administration complicity and to hinder investigation of the conspiracy.

Phase of Investigation

The committee's chief counsel, Samuel Dash, said he expected the panel to "exhaust this phase" of the case before going on to two others, campaign financing irregularities and broader efforts at espionage and sabotage.

Mr. Dash said that while the committee might have to return to the Watergate phase later in order to "make some linkages" with the other aspects it is set to concentrate on the first part throughout June and perhaps into July.

Some committee sources do not share Mr. Dash's confidence in the panel's ability to stick closely with the wiretapping, the area on which there is by far the most detailed information.

While key figures on the current witness list, such as H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and John W. Dean 3d, can be summoned to testify more than once, there may be a tendency to question them exhaustively when they first appear.

Mr. Dean, the deposed counsel to the President; Mr. Ehrlichman, the former domestic adviser to Mr. Nixon, and Mr. Haldeman, the resigned White House chief of staff, are all well down the list of committee witnesses.

A major issue within the committee is the question of whether to compel testimony from Mr. Dean, who has been implicated in the cover-up attempt, by granting him immunity from prosecution.

On the one hand, forcing the young lawyer to talk would complicate any subsequent criminal prosecution of him

because the Government would have to establish that its case did not stem from his testimony on the Hill.

At the same time, there have been steady reports over the last several weeks that Mr. Dean could implicate other officials, and if the committee ignores him it runs the risk of obtaining less than the full story.

While there are lingering doubts in some quarters, the panel voted unanimously yesterday to ask the United States District Court here for an order to compel Mr. Dean to appear under an immunity grant.

The committee must give the Justice Department 10 days notice before applying to the court, and the Attorney General can then obtain a further delay of 20 days. After that, the judge must issue the immunity order.

The Justice Department has waived the 10-day and 20-day delays for most of the men convicted in the trial last January. But it has refused to do so in Mr. Dean's case and, apparently, in one or two other instances.

Chief Judge John J. Sirica granted Senate immunity today to G. Gordon Liddy, a convicted conspirator who won a similar grant for his grand jury testimony but who balked at discussing the case anyway. He was found in contempt of court.

The committee's hearings will offer to the public an investigative proceeding different in both obvious and subtle ways from a criminal trial in either the Federal or state court systems.

The Senate panel's session can involve substantial amounts of hearsay testimony, while the courts demand only first-hand evidence except in special circumstances.

The courts also limit testimony strictly to the charges being tried, while the committee usually does not require its materiality or relevancy in its interrogation.

Possibly more important, the Senate panel is entitled to look anywhere, ask anything to expose improper political activity last year—a process that may result in new laws and more generally accepted campaign morals.

In the courts, however, the case is fixed by the indictment and by the defendants named in the charges. The lawyers then work entirely within that framework, a fact that helped to complicate the Watergate trial in January.

A number of observers, in-

TV and Radio to Cover Hearings on Watergate

The Senate Watergate hearings today will be seen live and continuously on all three commercial television network stations here and on independent station WPIX and public broadcasting stations WNET Channel 13 and WNYC Channel 31.

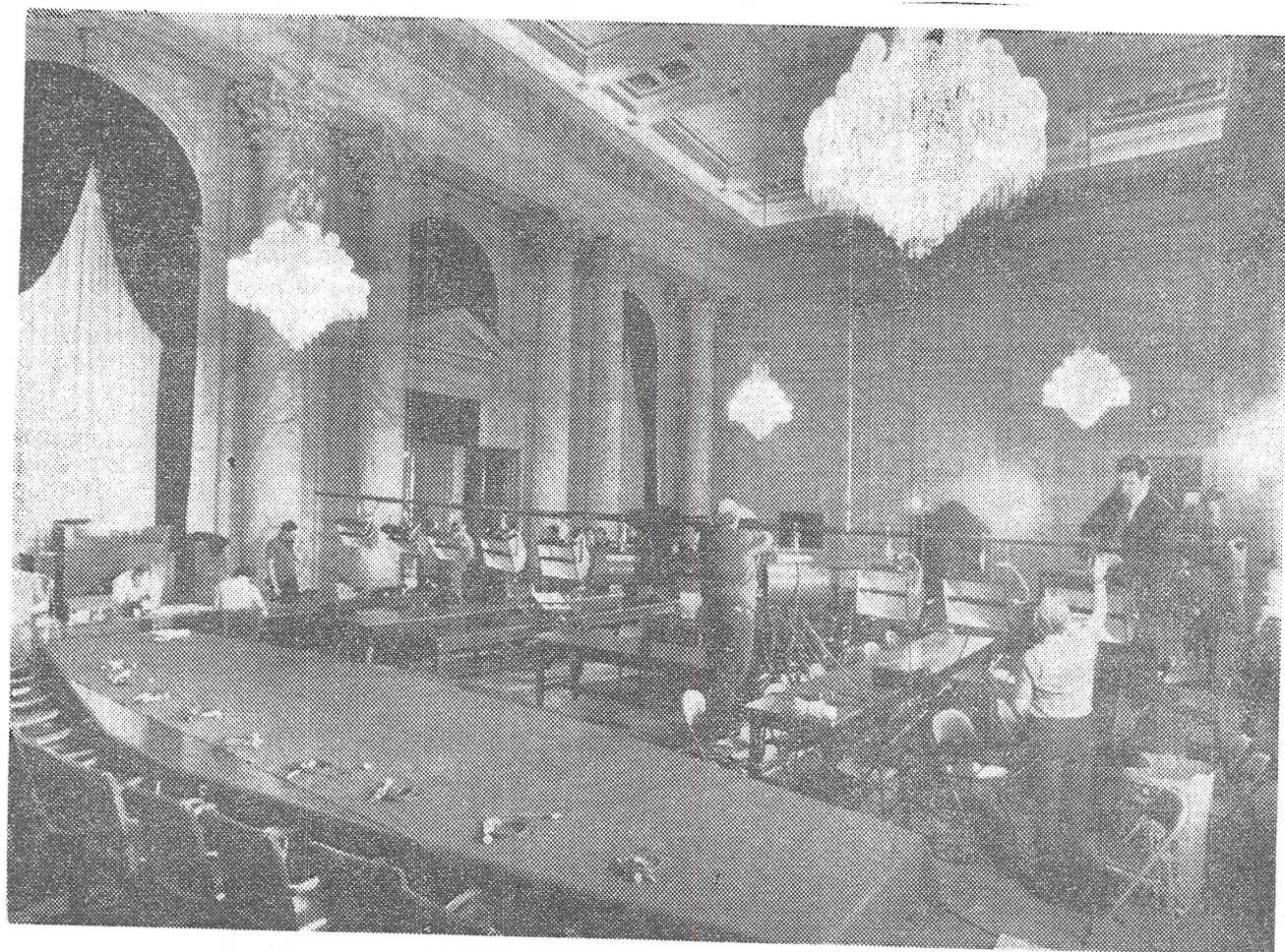
On radio, the live coverage may be heard on stations WCBS, WRVR, WBAI, and WNYC. WRVR and WNYC plan to supply live coverage every day of the hearings.

Although TV stations WPIX, WNET, and WNYC have announced plans to cover the hearings live every day, the three network stations here committed themselves to gavel-to-gavel coverage only for today. They are WABC, WNBC, and WCBS.

Stations WNET and WNYC will re-telecast their complete hearing coverage each night beginning at 8 o'clock.

The British Broadcasting Corporation will use the commercial satellite system to beam live and taped coverage of the hearings to viewers in Britain, The Netherlands, and Denmark.

cluding Judge Sirica, were keenly and vocally disappointed in the failure of prosecutors to ask broader questions and to go deeply into the motives and purposes of the conspiracy.



Technicians preparing the Caucus Room of the Old Senate Office Building for televised Watergate hearings

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