

The Who, What and When of Watergate TV Hearings

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Here are some assorted tidbits for those who will be watching the Watergate hearings on television that may help heighten their appreciation of the biggest daytime television spectacular in years:

The man in the middle is Sam Ervin. Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, is a portly, white-haired man, 76 years old who will sit in the middle of those at the committee table. As chairman of the select committee, he will be in charge of the hearings—convening and adjourning them, deciding when to recognize his colleagues and generally setting the tone of the proceedings.

Mr. Ervin will be flanked, on his right by Samuel Dash, the committee's counsel and staff director, and on his left by Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. of Tennessee, the ranking Republican on the committee.

On Mr. Dash's right, according to present plans, will be the next senior Democratic Senator, Herman F. Talmadge of Georgia, and then, on the Democrats' side of the long table, will be Senators Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii and Joseph M. Montoya of New Mexico.

On Senator Baker's left, will be Fred D. Thompson, the chief minority counsel.

To his left (the right on the television screen) will be the two other Republican Senators, Edward J. Gurney of Florida and Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut.

The committee is not a court. The committee need not and will not follow rules of criminal procedure. Much of the evidence presented will be hearsay. Accused individuals will have no chance to face their accusers, although they will be permitted to present their cases to the committee. Lawyers will appear with most witnesses, but they will not be allowed to cross-examine other witnesses or Senators, and they will not be permitted to coach their clients during testimony.

The first day will not be the liveliest. Each of the seven Senators will be permitted—tomorrow only—to make an opening statement. The statements will probably take up most of the morning. The first three witnesses will be mostly scene-setters. Robert C. Odle Jr., director of administration for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and Bruce Kherli, a middle-level White House aide, will present the organizational charts of the re-election committee and the White House. The third witness, Sgt. Paul W. Lepper, was one of the arresting officers at the Watergate break-in.

There may be some inter-

est when Mr. Kherli is asked about the drilling open of E. Howard Hunt Jr.'s safe in the Executive Office Building, a procedure Mr. Kherli participated in. But the first major witness, James W. McCord, one of those arrested at the Watergate, probably will not begin his testimony until Friday.

Mornings are when the action is. The committee plans to begin at 10 A.M. each day of the hearings, stay in session until noon, break for an hour for lunch and then resume from 1 to 4 P.M. If these hearings are like others in Congress, 75 per cent of the testimony will come in the mornings. The reason is that the Senate is in session in the afternoons, and, each time there is a vote on the Senate floor, the committee will have to recess for at least half an hour while Senators trudge to the Capitol, cast their votes and then reassemble.

Advice and Counsel. Mr. Dash and Mr. Thompson will be given 10 minutes each to ask the first questions of each witness. Then after the Senators have put their questions, the two counsels will have a chance to wrap up the questioning. Each Senator will have a staff member sitting behind him, whispering questions and advice in his ear. Mr. Dash, 48, and Mr. Thompson, 30, are both former prosecutors with reputa-

tions for being tough interrogators.

Some "not necessarily." Senators talk in obsequious language. When one calls the other "my great and good friend, the distinguished Senator from wherever," he does not necessarily mean it.

The Senators must tend to other business. Senator Talmadge, for instance, is chairman of the Agriculture Committee and the ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee. Thus, when they are not physically in the hearing room, it does not necessarily mean that they are loafing.

Reagan Won't Talk Further To Newsmen on Watergate

SACRAMENTO, Calif., May 16 (UPI)—Gov. Ronald Reagan, who for 11 months has been talking both seriously and humorously about the Watergate scandal, said yesterday that he would make no further comment to newsmen on the matter.

A few hours later, however, in a speech to a Republican women's group in San Luis Obispo, Governor Reagan said that not all Republicans should feel tarnished by the Watergate scandal.

"This cannot rub off on millions of Republicans across the country," he said. "I've never heard of a Republican who endorsed it."