



## The Anatomy Of the Committee

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**T**HE INNER POLITICS, and likely outcome, of Watergate find expression in the anatomy of the Senate investigating committee. All the committee by-play (and that includes the prosecution of the investigation as well as the defense of the President) lies on the Republican side.

The Democrats, apart from defending against an occasional shot, are sitting back in judgment. Which means that if the evidence points that way, no artificial barriers are going to stand against a pinning of blame on the President.

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**T**HE POINT MAN on the committee, the Senator who has forced the pace of investigation all along, is the Connecticut Republican, Lowell Weicker. Senator Weicker is well-born, well-educated, young (42) and idealistic. He was so shocked by the earliest Watergate disclosures that he made the scandal a theme during the 1972 campaign.

He has developed a four-man investigating team of his own. He has Connecticut contacts with two key witnesses — former acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray, and Alfred Baldwin, a security man hired for the original Watergate break-in.

The other Republicans on the committee are Edward Gurney of Florida and Howard Baker of Tennessee. Apart from a connection with Cuban-American constituents who participated at a very low level in break-in operations, Gurney seems to have no special information.

Senator Baker is a far more formidable figure. He is probably the most intelligent man on the committee, and he is a distinct presidential possibility. He is be-

lieved to be in regular touch with the White House. He has a friendly investigator from Tennessee, Fred Thompson, acting as counsel to the minority. However, there's an inference that Thompson has been a bust as an investigator.

As to the Democrats, they put their side of the committee together at a time when it looked as though they might be vulnerable to charges that the Watergate investigation was blackening the names of Cuban patriots, and hampering the President's ability to handle grave problems of national security. Thus, Senator Joseph Montoya of New Mexico, besides being a man of impartial judgment, is the leading Spanish-speaking political figure in the country. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii is a war hero, who provides a bulwark against any charges the Democrats are soft on national security.

**T**HERE REMAIN the two Democratic whales on the committee— Chairman Sam Ervin of North Carolina and Herman Talmadge of Georgia. They are highly intelligent, fair-minded men, respected by their colleagues in the Congress and about as nonpartisan as Democrats can be. Both have been at pains to point out that evidence against the President admitted to the committee would not be admissible in court.

But though they are reserving judgment, Ervin and Talmadge are not shying away from the trail so far traced by the evidence. Probably the key sentence uttered so far in the hearings was a comment made to a key witness by Talmadge: "You have made serious charges implicating the President of the United States . . ."