

Ervin Firm on Resuming The Watergate Hearings

Boston

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., the head of the special Senate Watergate committee, said yesterday

he will insist the Watergate hearings resume, despite a lack of agreement with special prosecutor Archibald Cox.

"If the prosecution doesn't have enough after a year to convict, I do not think they should ask someone else to delay," Ervin said at a news conference following a commencement address at Boston University Law School.

Ervin, 76, told newsmen he had talked to Cox on his request for delay of the televised hearings Saturday, but no agreement had been reached.

"The Justice Department has had the case since the 18th of June," Ervin said. "It's been almost a year. I think the American people are entitled to the truth on this matter."

The North Carolina Democrat said a meeting of the Senate Watergate committee is scheduled for today, and one of the things that will be discussed is the prosecution request for a delay in the hearings. He said he will "insist we go ahead."

The televised hearings were adjourned May 24 and are to resume tomorrow.

Ervin said he fears a delay in the hearings until indictments are returned, as Cox had requested, would only preface further delays, possibly for up to a year, while trials were in progress.

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