



The New York Times/Mike Lien

Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former treasurer of the 1972 Nixon campaign committee, with his lawyers at the Senate select committee hearing on Watergate. Lawyers are James Treese, left, and James R. Stoner.

## Ervin Panel Shows Deference to Witnesses

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 5—Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. seemed to be delighted. His thick, dark eyebrows swooped characteristically up and down like the wings of an eagle in flight. The corners of his lips curled with the hint of a satisfied smile. And he listened intently this afternoon to the response of Robert A. F. Reiser.

When, asked the chairman of the Senate's Watergate investigating committee, had Government prosecutors first interrogated Mr. Reiser about a 1972 Presidential campaign conspiracy?

The answer from the former official of President Nixon's re-election committee: 10 days after the Senate committee subpoenaed him to be a witness at its televised public hearings.

The hearings resumed today with the committee itself, in a sense, on trial. Its seven members had unanimously rejected a request that the hearings be delayed a month or more.

### Informational Role Cited

The committee was "unwilling," as Senator Ervin stated it, to "share the fears" of Archibald Cox, the new special prosecutor for the Justice Department, that the open hearings might jeopardize the Government's case against defendants in court. One of the Senate panel's prime considerations, Mr. Ervin said, is a necessity to "inform the Congress and the American people of the truth."

Thus Mr. Ervin appeared to find consolation in the statement by Mr. Reiser—after the witness had testified to specific meetings and events bearing on the involvement of key officials in the conspiracy—that the subpoena he received from the Senate committee on March 30, eight months after the Watergate

break-in, "was the first time I heard from an investigative body."

All the same, the committee was taking pains today to reexhibit the concern of its members and staff for the legal rights of the prosecution and of potential criminal defendants.

The Senators agreed, for the present, not to call G. Gordon Liddy, one of the convicted conspirators who has refused to give evidence, in light of Liddy's insistence that he would not answer questions even if granted immunity from further prosecution.

The committee's examination of Sally Jackson Harmony, who had been Liddy's secretary at the Committee for the Re-election of the President, was cautious and occasionally deferential, in part because she reportedly may face prosecution for perjury.

And, for the first time, there was a small stack of pamphlets on the witness table alongside a handlettered notice that said: "Witness, please take a copy of rules."

The pamphlets contained 40 printed pages outlining the rules of procedure for the select committee on Presidential campaign activities—among which were several stipulations about the rights of any individual who feels the investigation "tends to defame him or otherwise adversely affect his reputation." The pamphlets noted the following:

¶ Lawyers for witnesses may ask that other witnesses or evidence be produced "to protect his client's rights."

¶ Lawyers may submit in writing any questions they wish the committee to ask their clients or any other witnesses.

¶ Any individual concerned about the image of his or her reputation that might be provoked by the hearings may ask to testify or file a

sworn statement with the committee.

¶ "A witness may request, on grounds of distraction, harassment or physical discomfort that, during his testimony, television, motion picture and other cameras and lights shall not be directed at him" and the committee shall immediately rule on the request.

The latter rule bore directly on the concern of Mr. Cox that the televised hearings could prejudice a defendant's presumption of innocence.

### Some Witnesses May Go

Senator Howard H. Baker Jr., Republican of Tennessee, told reporters that the committee members discussed in private today the possibility that they might "weed out" some of the least important witnesses to satisfy the complaints of some Senators and observers that they were taking too long to get to the essential question of how high the conspiracy might go in the Government.

But when a television newsman suggested to Senator Baker that the slow, deliberate, case-building process of the committee might enable Mr. Cox to "beat" the Senators to the punch by bringing indictments against key individuals, Mr. Baker snapped back:

"Of all the things I want understood, I want it understood we are not in a race with Mr. Cox."

Accordingly, the committee resumed what seemed to be a methodical search for the spoor of conspirators. It questioned Mrs. Harmony, a typed of "general intelligence" from such exotic code-named sources as "Ruby I" and "Crystal" and the "Gemstone" file of bugged telephone conversations from the Democratic party's Watergate offices.

The Senators conducted a long interrogation of Mr. Reiser about the "log" he had kept to note meetings between his former superior

at the re-election committee, Jeb Stuart Magruder, and Liddy; John W. Dean 3d, the deposed White House lawyer, and John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General during the period that the political surveillance operation allegedly was being hatched.

Furthermore, they drew from Mr. Reiser for the first time reputed links between the "Gemstone" material and officials in the White House.

The procedure is designed to build a trail of evidence leading to whatever may be the ultimate level of questionable activity—or attempted cover-up.

When the hearing ended late this afternoon, members of Senator Ervin's various personal and committee staffs on Capitol Hill prepared for a more direct confrontation tonight with officials from the executive mansion—a softball game in West Potomac Park between the White House team and "Sam's Sluggers."

## Upstate Girl Defeats A County Lawmaker

ROCHESTER, June 5 (AP)—The president of the Monroe County Legislature, seeking reelection, lost the Conservative party nomination yesterday to an 18-year-old girl high-school student.

Despite his 39-to-23 loss to Rosalee Sanguedolce, Joseph N. Ferrari was unopposed for the Republican nomination in the 26th District and will be on the ballot in November. He will face not only Miss Sanguedolce in the general election but also her father, Russell Sanguedolce, a restaurant owner who was unopposed for the Democratic nomination.

Miss Sanguedolce, a senior at John Marshall High School on the city's North Side, attributed her primary election victory to a door-knocking campaign.