

# Fifi -- A Surprise Watergate Figure

## Washington

When Fifi didn't show up at the Senate Watergate hearings early last week, absent for the first time since they began two months ago, people started asking for her.

Fifi? Who is Fifi? There is no Fifi on the famous Watergate witness list, or on the Senate committee or its staff. She is unknown outside the hearing room. But, as the crowds began gathering there every morning, her name became as familiar to those inside the marbled walls of Room 318 as that of Jeb Stuart Magruder, John W. Dean III or John N. Mitchell.

The woman who calls herself Fifi is one of the regulars, a member of the public who comes time after time, waiting long hours to get in,

standing additional hours among the four rows at the rear of the room, to watch a part of history or just to see something extra, more than the television set allows. OR, as the Capitol Hill police tell it, to sometimes provide almost as colorful a show off camera as on the screen.

Fifi, for example, would appear looking more like she was ready for a broadcast of "Let's Make A Deal." She wore a baseball cap over a green yarn wig, a gold miniskirt, an army jacket covered with campaign buttons. Sometimes she peered through ski goggles. Often, she carried two radios and a pair of handcuffs. She told the guards she had no home, and spent her nights sleeping in moving buses.

"She looked strange, but we talked to her a lot and

found her pretty straight," one guard said. "She sure was funny. She entertained us for hours. Made the time pass real quick. I hope she comes back. Everyone today is asking 'Where's Fifi?'"

But, even though Fifi may be gone, there is no lack of interesting faces among the spectators. It is a responsive crowd, mostly young, and distinctly partisan. It laughs at chairman Sam Ervin's country homilies — even though he admonishes it for doing so — and cheers when the anti-Nixon forces score a point. It has often been decorated with non-political celebrities: Ginger Rogers, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, Norman Mailer.

"It's like football," said one young attorney on the committee staff. "A lot of people have season tickets."

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