



Senator Herman Talmadge is amazed by the subway kisses he's been getting since the hearings began

Washington

SENATOR Herman Talmadge (Dem-Ga.) turned down an offer of a \$10,000 honorarium and a free trip to Acapulco for a speech there.

The switchboard at Senator Edward J. Gurney's (Rep-Fla.) Washington apartment building lights up with calls from women wanting to know if the wavy-haired 59-year-old is "unattached and available." (He has been married for 33 years.)

A woman in Dallas wants

to marry 77-year-old Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.), who — after 19 years in the Washington phone book — got an unlisted home phone number to avoid the press.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye (Dem-Hawaii), who lost his right arm in World War II, says "there's no question" that the Senate Watergate committee hearings are the most difficult influence on his life that he has yet encountered.

The televised coverage of

for and about
people

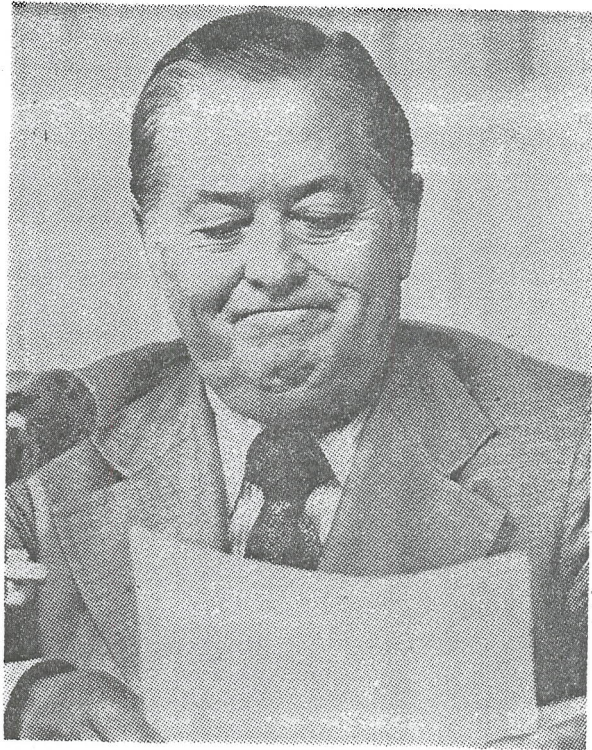
the marathon hearings in the Senate caucus room has changed the lives of all seven senators who form the committee. It has brought them fame and glory and



Inouye and Gurney find they have become sex objects

Watergate Senators: Life Will Never Be the Same

Montoya has gone ahead and signed up with a speakers' bureau



high profiles. It has brought unwanted attention, too.

One Ervin aide says they may have to hire a guard to run interference through crowds of journalists and tourists who dog "Uncle Sam's" tracks.

Recently, an aide in Senator Howard H. Baker Jr.'s (Rep-Tenn.) office wailed, "If I get one more letter from somebody who wants a job, they can have mine!"

The volume of mail for the Watergate senators has increased as much as five times since early this year. Tourists flock to committee members' offices.

Speaking invitations from all over the country are coming in. Requests for Ervin, Baker and Gurney have doubled, according to aides, with Ervin's up 100 per cent over last year and Baker's up from 30 or 40 requests a week since the televised hearings began.

Unsolicited honorarium offers to Ervin and Baker have increased by an average of \$1000 per speech.

Some offer Ervin an honorarium as high as \$5000. And for the first time, Senator Joseph M. Montoya (Dem-N.M.) has signed a contract with a speakers' bureau.

The television exposure could prove to be a boon in terms of campaign advertising for the four Watergate committee members whose terms expire next year — Senators Ervin, Inouye, Talmadge and Gurney.

Baker, 47, leads the hit parade with about 100 mash notes and is said to be embarrassed about it.

Senator Gurney's fans apparently prefer the telephone. He's gotten "quite a few" marriage proposals, he says, asking if he's "unattached and available." Gurney, whose wife is an invalid, seems a little horrified by his new sex-object status.

If Baker and Gurney are taken aback by female adulation, Talmadge and Inouye are taking it in. Talmadge, 59, who may have been feeling his age after the recent birth of a fourth grandchild,

is amazed by the young women who rush up to him in the capitol subway to give him a kiss.

In a recent poll of Atlanta beauty shops, Senator Inouye, 49, was voted "the sexiest man on the Watergate committee."

("It's the Oriental mystery," one senator noted.)

Inouye is not entirely sanguine about the effect of the Watergate hearings on his life. For one thing, a bank of blinding lights for color television faces the senators' table and burns into senatorial retinas day after day. Inouye found he wound up with "horrible headaches" every day. He took to wearing sunglasses until a woman called to say they made him look like "a member of the Yokohama Mafia."

Personal remarks, suggestions and criticisms are common. One woman wrote Senator Weicker, 42, "I love your mod glasses, but please do something about that tie you wear all the time."

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