

Committee Split Over Recess Date

Washington

A majority of the Senate Watergate committee said yesterday it favors continuing hearings through the August congressional recess.

However, committee chairman Sam J. Ervin Jr. and vice chairman Howard Baker, both said they hope the first stage of the hearings would end by Friday, the beginning of the summer holiday. 3 AUG

Former presidential assistant John D. Ehrlichman will return for more questioning Monday, and there are at least ten more witnesses, including former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman, to testify in the first phase of the hearings.

Senators Lowell Weicker (Rep-Conn.), Herman Talmadge (Dem-Ga.), Edward Gurney, (Rep-Fla.), and Daniel Inouye, (Dem-Hawaii), all said they want the current phase completed before the committee recessed.

"I would like to see the hearings go on and forget the summer recess," Weicker said in a speech. "There's something incongruous about setting aside these critical issues and grabbing my bathing suit and going to Rehoboth Beach for a couple of weeks."

Inouye said he and other committee members are "getting pretty tired" but said he believes the Watergate inquiry should be completed before a recess.

Talmadge agreed, saying, "the American people have a right to know all the facts. This shouldn't be delayed."

Senator Joseph Montoya, the seventh member of the committee, said he favored recessing the hearings during August, because many members of the committee "are near exhaustion."

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