

# Hearings To Continue Into August

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Contrary to the desires of its leaders, the Senate select Watergate committee decided yesterday to skip at least a part of Congress' August vacation and continue the first phase of its investigation with at least six witnesses, after H.R. Haldeman.

The decision to go ahead with the live hearings—and meet on Saturdays if necessary—was reached during an hour-long private session of the committee before the hearings began yesterday despite pleas by committee chairman Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) and vice chairman Howard H. Baker (R-Tenn.) that the senators and staff were tired and needed a rest.

Committee staff members said that once the six witnesses are heard, the Senate committee expects to have completed the first phase of its three-tiered investigation of 1972 presidential campaign activities. In the fall, the committee has planned to investigate political espionage and campaign spending practices in the 1972 campaign.

Neither the senators nor the committee staff could give any firm idea as to when in August the Watergate committee expects to be finished with its investigation into the Watergate bugging and cover-up.

To speed the hearings, the senators agreed to advance the start of daily hearings one-half hour and begin at 9:30 a.m., to cut short the daily lunch period one-half hour and begin afternoon sessions at 1:30 p.m. The senators discussed the possibility of holding some Sat-

## COMMITTEE, From A1

urday hearings but made no decision.

The witnesses the committee said it would call before ending the first phase of its investigation are: former Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III; Richard M. Helms and Gen. Robert E. Cushman, former CIA director and deputy director respectively; Gen. Vernon A. Walters, current CIA deputy director; former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst and Henry E. Petersen, assistant attorney general.

Former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson, who had originally been named as a witness for the Senate committee's investigation into the Watergate break-in and cover-up, has been dropped from the list. The committee staff said it is now believed that Colson's testimony is not essential to this phase but to a later inquiry into campaign "dirty tricks."

Only Sen. Joseph Montoya (D-N. Mexico) sided with Baker and Ervin in the effort to break the hearings for vacations beginning next week when the rest of Congress goes home. The others reportedly stressed their belief in the meeting that it is essential that the first phase be ended as quickly as possible.

"I just feel that it is essential that we finish up this particular phase as soon as we can. I think the President and the nation are suffering. I'm seriously concerned about the government retaining its momentum and ability to govern," Gurney said later.

Gurney also acknowledged that he would prefer the committee to divide into

subcommittees which would focus in on specific questions in the latter two phases of the hearings. The subcommittees would meet simultaneously.

Some committee staff

members said they fear that, if that were done, there would be no televised live hearings and that the public attention focused on the first phase of the hearings would dissipate.



Associated Press

Arriving in London for vacation with his family, Jeb Stuart Magruder and son stride through Gatwick Airport.