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# Senators Agree on

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The questioning of former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman by members of the Senate select Watergate committee was brief and short yesterday because the senators themselves had earlier agreed to a strict 10-minute time limit for each turn at questioning.

Rufus L. Edmisten, deputy counsel to the committee and long-time aide to committee chairman Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.), was appointed to enforce that new

rule and throughout the hearing passed notes that would say, "Senator, your 10 minutes are up" or, sometimes more bluntly, "Senator, you've had 13 minutes."

The time limits were set by the senators themselves at a reportedly quarrelsome private meeting Monday. In that meeting, the senators decided over the objections of committee leaders that the panel would not recess on Friday, when Congress takes its August vacation, but instead would hear six more witnesses.

The senators reportedly complained heatedly among themselves that the hearings were dragging on at a needlessly slow pace because questions were often redundant and occasionally irrelevant.

There were reportedly strong complaints over the fact that questioning of former White House chief domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman had continued over five days.

Ehrlichman's appearance before the committee had been marked by lengthy questioning of him on the

## 10-Minute Time Limit

break-in of the psychiatrist's office of Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg, a matter some senators said they believed was outside the scope of the Watergate committee inquiry. And, Ehrlichman's testimony was marked by lengthy debate and by public quarreling between the Democrat and Republican counsel on the committee.

"I don't have the feeling that we made much ground with Ehrlichman," said one committee aide. "To some extent (the length of the testimony) was Ehrlichman's

fault. He filibustered like mad."

In another matter, the Watergate committee voted yesterday to refuse a request of the law partner of former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson that Colson be permitted to testify before the August recess.

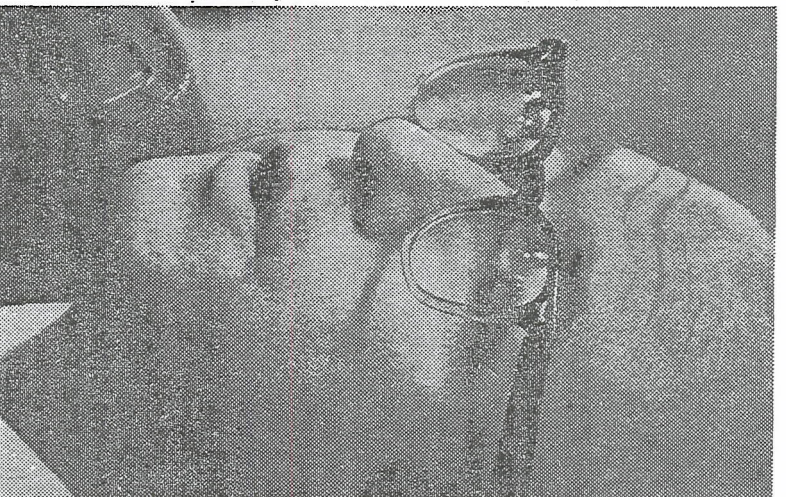
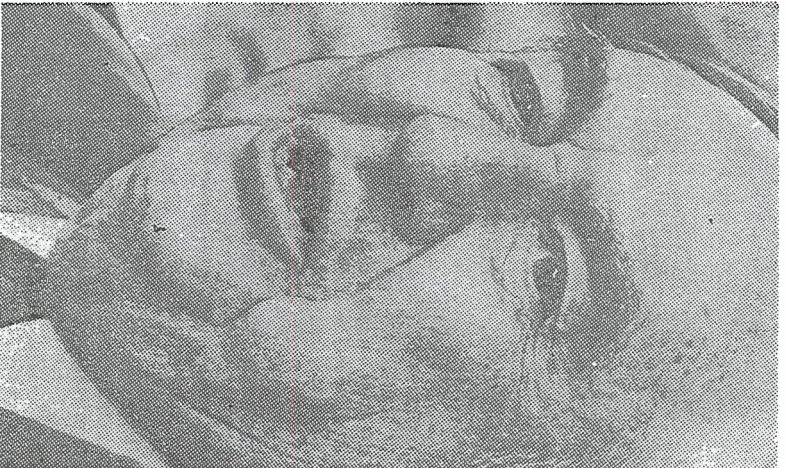
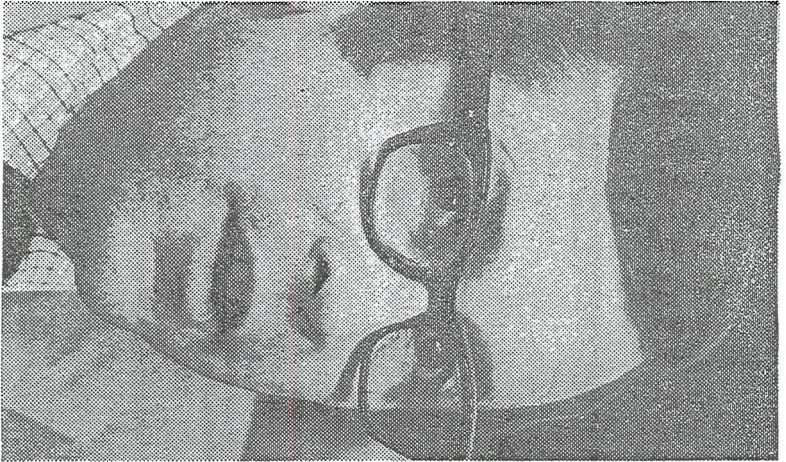
Chief committee counsel Samuel Dash said that the committee believed Colson's testimony should be heard in the fall when the committee focuses on "political espionage" in the 1972 presidential campaign. He added

that the committee believed that Colson's testimony and that of witnesses who would have to be heard in conjunction with him could be lengthy and extend the hearings further into August.

Other committee staff members said they now believe that testimony for the first phase of the committee inquiry—the Watergate break-in and cover-up—would be wrapped up by Thursday or Friday of next week.

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Expressions at the Watergate hearings: From left, Sen. Gurney, Sen. Baker, Sen. Ervin, the committee chairman, and majority counsel Samuel Dash.

By Douglas Chevalier—The Washington Post