

REC'D AUG 11 1973

SAM J. ERVIN, JR., N.C., CHAIRMAN
HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN., VICE CHAIRMAN
HERMAN E. TALMADGE, GA. EDWARD J. GURNEY, FLA.
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONN.
JOSEPH M. MONTOYA, N. MEX.

SAMUEL DASH
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

FRED D. THOMPSON
MINORITY COUNSEL
RUFUS L. EDMISTEN
DEPUTY COUNSEL

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES
(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 60, 93D CONGRESS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Thank you for your recent communication regarding this Committee's hearings on the Watergate affair. Your views and comments are welcome.

There are those who say that this Committee should not be conducting these hearings or that they are politically motivated. This is to ignore the fact that the Committee was authorized by a unanimous vote of the Senate, well after the election, and well after the court had concluded its case resulting in the conviction of those charged in the Watergate breakin.

There are those who say that political espionage, sabotage, manipulation of the electoral process and subversion of our democratic institutions have always gone on. While I disagree with this viewpoint, the question may be asked: If this is true, do we want to allow it to continue? My answer is an emphatic "NO."

Without judging the degree of guilt or innocence of anyone involved, the evidence thus far presented before this Committee tends to show that men upon whom fortune had smiled benevolently and who possessed great political power, and great governmental power, undertook to nullify the laws of man and the laws of God for the purpose of gaining what history will call a very temporary political advantage. Watergate and its related activities occurred because a group of men lacked respect for and faith in the democratic institutions they were sworn to uphold. These democratic institutions, freedoms and our open society, guaranteed by the Constitution, have made us the hope and envy of peoples around the world and are our most precious heritage.

The strength of this country lies in the people and I trust that the ultimate outcome of this investigation will strengthen their faith in the integrity of their government.

Sincerely,

Sam J. Ervin, Jr.

Sam J. Ervin, Jr.
Chairman

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Sam J. Ervin, Jr.

U. S. S.

*Mr. and Mrs. James White
35 Castle Rock Dr.
Mill Valley, CA 94941*