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Ervin Says Nixon Shed Little Light

MORGANTON, N.C., Aug. 22 (AP)—Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) said President Nixon failed today in his televised news conference to shed more light "on the Watergate than had been shed before."

Ervin, chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, said the news conference had elicited only "generalities" from Mr. Nixon.

Ervin watched impassively as the President defended his conduct on Watergate. Occasionally his eyebrows would quiver and he would turn to his guests, smile and ask jokingly, "Now wasn't that an impertinent question."

The 76-year-old Ervin said getting to the bottom of Watergate would depend on whether his committee could hear the tapes of Mr. Nixon's conversations with former presidential counsel John W. Dean III.

"I find myself totally incapable of giving intellectual assent," to the Nixon claim that executive privilege permits him to withhold the tapes, Ervin said.

"Somebody [one of the reporters] should have asked him why, when five burglars were discovered with his campaign money in their pockets he didn't get more exercised and more curious," Ervin said. "There are still a lot of questions I would like to ask, but I have nobody to whom I can put them."