

Ervin Panel to Call Donors To Nixon From Businesses

By George Lardner Jr.
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The Senate Watergate committee's chief counsel, Samuel Dash, said yesterday that corporate officials pressured for 1972 Nixon re-election campaign contributions will be called as witnesses in the committee's final round of hearings.

About 15 to 20 companies are believed to have been involved in illicit contributions to the President's re-election effort. So far, seven corporations have publicly acknowledged putting up a total of \$445,000 and reported their donations to Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Dash refused to say which businessmen might be called but he said the Watergate committee could not pretend a "proper examination of (presidential) campaign financing without calling on corporate givers who have been pressured . . ."

Speaking at a breakfast meeting with reporters, Dash said the committee has asked the Justice Department to "share information" on its investigation of kickback allegations involving Vice President Agnew so that Senate investigators could determine whether to conduct their own inquiry.

He said the Agnew case would be added to the committee's work only if the allegations touch in some way on the 1972 presidential campaign. Dash would not say whether the Justice Department as supplied the committee with any information so far.

The committee is expected to resume its public hearings Sept. 17 with windup witnesses on the Watergate scandal and then move on to its investigations of "dirty tricks" and campaign financing in the 1972 election.

Dash said that the Senate committee staff would try to arrange "a discreet interview" with Martha Mitchell to determine whether she should be called in light of recent statements.

Mrs. Mitchell told United Press International last week that she had read a "campaign strategy book" written by Mr. Nixon and former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman which she hinted included plans for Watergate-style operations. She called her husband, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, "a goddamned fool" to protect the President.

Committee lawyers are also hopeful of stepping up the pace of their lawsuit for Mr.

Nixon's secret Watergate tape recordings which Special Prosecutor Cox also wants for the Watergate grand jury.

If the committee gets the tapes, Dash added, it would expect to make "relevant portions" public.