

TV Networks To Cut Back Watergate

New York

The three major television networks decided yesterday to cut back on their live coverage when the Watergate hearings are resumed next week.

ABC, CBS and NBC agreed to end the procedure under which they have taken turns providing coverage of the hearings.

A CBS spokesman said his network, in a meeting with representatives of the other two, had urged that the rotation continue but NBC and ABC voted not to continue it.

CBS said it will carry the hearings live on any day when it considers them significant. On days that CBS does not have live coverage, it will do a half-hour summary from 11:30 p.m. to midnight.

ABC said it has no present plans other than to cover Watergate in its regular newscasts. But a network spokesman pointed out that

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the network pool still will exist and the networks are free to go ahead with coverage as they desire.

NBC confirmed that the rotational coverage plan is being dropped, but said it has not decided on its own plans for coverage.

A spokesman for the Public Broadcasting Service said nightly showings of the day's taped proceedings would continue on educational TV stations.

United Press