

The three major television networks decided yesterday to terminate the rotation system for daily live broadcasts of the Senate Watergate hearings.

The Columbia Broadcasting System had urged continuation of the system under which each network broadcast the hearings gavel to gavel every third day. The National Broadcasting Company and the American Broadcasting Company opposed it on the ground that the dimensions of the hearings had changed, C.B.S. said.

The networks said each would decide itself whether to cover the proceedings live on days when it appeared the hearings might produce significant news.

The coverage pool in Washington will remain in operation, however. A spokesman for the Public Broadcasting Service said nightly showings of the day's taped proceedings would continue on educational stations. The pool is supported by the three networks and Public Broadcasting.

C.B.S. said that on days it does not broadcast the hearings live, the network will present a special summary of the day's testimony from 11:30 P.M. to midnight.