

Ervin's Doubts on the Prosecutor

Atlanta

Senate Watergate committee Chairman Sam Ervin (Dem-N.C.) expressed belief last night that the selection of Leon Jaworski as special prosecutor had failed to satisfy the Congress.

"I don't think you can give the special prosecutor independence as long as he is subject to the Justice Department and the White

House," Ervin said during a news conference prior to speaking at Emory University.

"I believe we will proceed with our plans to have the court choose a prosecutor, and I have to object to the administration having power to fire the special prosecutor," he said.

"I think a lot of the members of Congress are not altogether happy with the selection."

Ervin said he and 52 other senators will proceed with a bill authorizing U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica to appoint a prosecutor.

He said that if two prosecutors are named, "the one chosen by the court would preempt the other."

On the issue of the Watergate tapes, Ervin said he was "led to believe" that the two tapes that the White House now says were never made had, in fact, existed.

"It seems that the White House should have informed the court long before this that the tapes did not exist," he said. "The committee and the special prosecutor have been trying to get these tapes since July."

"When Senator (Howard) Baker and I talked with the President, he gave us to understand that all the tapes existed," Ervin said.

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