

Ervin Group Seeks Nixon 'Statement'

Washington

The Senate select Watergate committee has decided to renew its attempts to try to interview President Nixon about the Watergate affair, committee chairman Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. said yesterday.

The committee, prompted by a proposal made by Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (Rep-Conn.), instructed its chief counsel, Samuel Dash, and its minority counsel, Fred Thompson, to contact White House lawyers "to try to get a statement" from Mr. Nixon. Ervin made it clear that, by a "statement," he meant that the committee would question Mr. Nixon.

A spokesman said the White House had no immediate reaction to the committee's decision.

Weicker had proposed that the committee question President Nixon at the White House in a closed session without putting him under oath but with a full transcript being made of the session without putting him under oath but with a full transcript being made of the session.

Ervin said the committee



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SENATORS HOWARD BAKER AND SAM ERVIN
They want to question the President

took no "official" action on Weicker's proposal but rather reached its decision by "consensus." Under the approach briefly outlined by Ervin, the committee would meet President Nixon "anywhere," not only in the White House, and did not confine itself to seeking a closed session with him as Weicker had proposed.

Ervin said again yester-

day that he did not think a written statement from Mr. Nixon would be an acceptable alternative because "you can't cross-examine a piece of paper." Ervin has been supported publicly by committee vice chairman Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. (Rep-Tenn.) in his stated desire to have the committee interview Mr. Nixon.

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