

# Senate OKs Bill to Aid Its Watergate Suit

Washington

The Senate approved legislation yesterday to give a federal court jurisdiction to hear a Senate Watergate committee suit that seeks White House records of President Nixon's conversations.

The bill, passed by voice vote and sent to the House, would confer jurisdiction on the U.S. District Court to rule on the validity of committee subpoenas.

Chief Judge John J. Sirica recently dismissed a committee suit to obtain White House tape recordings and other documents on the

ground his court lacked jurisdiction. The Watergate committee is appealing the decision.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem.-N.C.), committee chairman, originally introduced a bill to give any congressional committee authority to sue to enforce subpoenas against executive branch officers, including the President.

In modifying the bill yesterday to limit it to the Watergate committee, Ervin said he and other members of the committee had been persuaded that the original was too broad.

*Associated Press*