

SFC 11-21-73

## Gurney Dissent

# Watergate Investigator Cleared

### Washington

The Senate Watergate committee yesterday cleared its chief investigator, Carmine Bellino, of Republican allegations he engaged in electronic eavesdropping in the 1960 Presidential campaign.

Republican National Chairman George Bush raised the allegations July 24. Three days later 22 Republican senators demanded an investigation.

A subcommittee appointed by committee chairman Sam Ervin (Dem.-N.C.) to investigate the charges reported:

"Based upon an extensive investigation, it is the subcommittee's conclusion that there is no direct, competent or credible evidence to sustain the charges against Bellino that he participated in electronic eavesdropping or in the planning of electrical eavesdropping in connection with the 1960 President campaign of John F. Kennedy

against Richard M. Nixon.

The report was signed by subcommittee members Herman E. Talmadge (Dem.-La.) and Daniel K. Inouye (Dem.-Hawaii). The third member Senator Edward J. Gurney (Rep.-Fla.), wrote a dissenting opinion saying Bellino should not be cleared because there were unanswered questions about the bugging allegations.

However, the full committee, which includes two other Republicans — Howard

H. Baker Jr., of Tennessee and Lowell P. Weicker Jr., of Connecticut — endorsed the report 6 to 1. Gurney again dissented.

*Los Angeles Times*