

## ERVIN REPORTED TO BACK HEARINGS

Watergate Panel Chief Said  
to Favor Resumption

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 22— Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, has told committee staff members that he is willing to resume public hearings and continue them for several weeks, according to persons who have met with him.

The committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow for the first time since Christmas, and a final decision on future hearings is likely to be made.

When the panel adjourned its hearings before Thanksgiving, it announced that more time was needed to investigate contributions by milk cooperatives to President Nixon's reelection campaign and the circumstances surrounding the delivery of \$100,000 in cash to the President's friend, Charles G. Rebozo, by agents of Howard R. Hughes.

Republicans on the panel have hinted that little new information was unearthed in the investigations of these matters and have suggested that public hearings should not resume. Samuel Dash, the committee's chief counsel, has insisted, however, that the hearings would continue.

Senator Ervin, a North Carolina Democrat, met late yesterday with the top members of the committee's staff and was said to be prepared to resume the hearings.

In the past, a majority of the panel has invariably supported the views of the chairman.

Committee sources said that

no decision had been made on whether to take up the milk producers' contributions or the Hughes - Rebozo transaction first.

At any rate, they said, one subject would be taken up next week and hearing on it would be held through Feb. 7 or 8.

Then, after a week's break during the Congressional recess over Lincoln's Birthday, the hearings would be held on the other issue for a week or two.

There are no plans, according to the sources, to hold hearings on the erased White House tape recording.

The resolution that created the committee provided that the panel would complete its work and dissolve by Feb. 28. Committee officials agree that the deadline will almost certainly have to be extended.