

SFChronicle

Rebozo, Milk

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Watergate Panel Votes to Hold More Hearings

Washington

Dividing on a straight party line basis, the Senate Watergate Committee voted 4 to 3 yesterday to hold six more days of hearings into campaign financing.

All three committee Republicans voted against the staff proposal to make public the investigations into the milk fund and the Hughes - Rebozo matter, both involving large contributions to President Nixon's 1972 campaign.

The committee did not formally approve a witness list but deputy counsel Rufus Edmisten said Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo, President Nixon's close friend, definitely will be called.

Vice chairman Howard H. Baker (Rep-Tenn.) objected to the move, saying he was defeated in his attempt to convince the committee to end all further hearings and turn its investigative files over to the House Judiciary Committee which is inquiring into the possible impeachment of President Nixon.

The committee voted to open three consecutive days of hearings next Tuesday into the controversy surrounding the \$100,000 contribution made by agents of billionaire Howard Hughes to Rebozo.

It also agreed to hold three days of hearings the following week into allegations that contributions made by the milk industry to Mr. Nixon's campaign were directly related to the Nixon administration's decision to raise dairy price supports.

The milk fund hearings also will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

"I have grave doubt the committee can do those two things in six days," Baker told reporters. He said he expects it will take far longer to complete such hearings especially if the constitutional rights of those involved are to be respected.

The committee voted unanimously to adopt a resolution proposed by Senator Lowell Weicker (Rep-Conn.), repeating its request that the President meet with the full committee and respond to Watergate questions.

The resolution noted the President has made no response to previous requests. If no face-to-face meeting can be arranged it asked that the committee members be allowed to put questions in writing.

It said such questions would be transmitted to the White House and made public on February 5.

The committee also approved a Weicker resolution that the full Senate be asked to extend the committee's mandate beyond February 28 for the limited purpose of resolving its law suits aimed at procuring presidential tape recordings and documents.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.), committee chairman, said he disagreed with Baker's comments and believes it essential that the

committee continue its work into the major investigations already underway.

Meanwhile special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski said in a court memorandum that John W. Dean III will be a major government witness in a Watergate case against former White House aide Dwight L. Chapin.

On Dean, a former White House counsel, Senate GOP leader Hugh Scott repeated his assertion that he has seen evidence that Dean lied to the Senate Watergate committee.

Dean told the committee that President Nixon knew of the Watergate coverup before last March 21, the date Mr. Nixon said he was told about it.

Associated Press

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Senators Ervin and Baker met the press before the decision to hold new meetings was made