

# Ervin Says He's Told to Expect New Indictments on Watergate

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By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM FEB 8 1974

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 7—Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate Watergate committee, said today that he had been told to expect "a number of indictments in the Watergate case this month and that many would be settled by guilty pleas."

Acting at the request of the special Watergate prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, the committee voted today to postpone issuing a final report for another three months.

Senator Ervin and the committee's ranking Republican, Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. of Tennessee, met with Mr. Jaworski last week and were reportedly asked to delay their final report, which had been scheduled to be published at the end of this month.

Senator Ervin said after a closed committee meeting today that he had been "led to believe," presumably by Mr. Jaworski, that the releasing of the report this month might hamper the prosecutor's efforts to obtain guilty pleas.

## Guilty Pleas Entered

Several key figures in the Watergate case have already pleaded guilty, among them John W. Dean 3d, the former White House counsel, and Jeb Stuart Magruder, who was deputy director of President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Among the former officials who still face possible Federal indictment are H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff; John D. Ehrlichman, the former domestic counselor, and Charles W. Colson, once special counsel to Mr. Nixon.

An official who was at the committee's meeting today said that Senator Ervin was careful not to mention any names when he asked the panel to put off the final report.

The Senator merely said, according to the official, that persons who had no defense to the charges against them and would thus consider a guilty plea might, if the committee's report came out simultaneously with the indictments, seize on the

issue of pretrial publicity and fight the charges.

Senator Ervin and a Republican committee member, Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of Connecticut, pledged after the meeting that the panel would pull no punches when it issued its report in May.

"We want to assure the American people that, no matter what happens, no fact will be withheld from them," Mr. Weicker said.