

'10 Minutes' Was Enough

Washington

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.), chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee, said yesterday the bugging scandal would have been over "in ten minutes" if President Nixon had quickly questioned his campaign managers after the 1972 break in at Democratic offices.

"If the President had acted with forthrightness," Ervin said during a question-and-answer period at the National Press Club, "we

would have been spared the long agony of Watergate."

As he frequently did during seven months of committee hearings, Ervin cited the discovery of campaign funds in the possession of the Watergate burglars as being something Mr. Nixon should have questioned quickly.

Ervin, retiring at the end of this term, gave what in effect was a farewell address to the club's overflow audience. His subject was what constitutes an impeachable offense.

Without mentioning Mr.

Nixon by name, Ervin defined an impeachable offense as a crime against the government as contrasted to one not involving the government.

"You can't impeach, in my judgment, for all crimes; you have to have a certain type of crime — a crime that affects the government," said Ervin, acknowledged as the Senate's leading expert on constitutional law.

He specified misprison of felony, obstruction of jus-

tice, bribery, tax evasion and conspiracy to commit a crime as among those offen-

ses he considers impeachable.

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