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Watergate Birthday-- Senate Acts

Washington

The fourth anniversary of the break-in at Democratic headquarters was celebrated yesterday with the Senate formally receiving the legislation spawned by Watergate and aimed at ensuring "no more Watergates."

There was no fanfare in the Senate. Watergate is not the issue it once was, and Sam Ervin has retired — leaving no orator to stir the coals.

The legislation would establish a division of government crimes within the Justice Department to handle criminal cases involving government officials.

It contains a triggering device for appointment of a special prosecutor when criminal charges are brought against high government officials.

It establishes an office of special counsel to represent Congress when legal controversy arises between executive and legislative branches.

It would provide for annual public financial disclosure by all government employees earning more than \$36,000 — an estimated 13,000 public officials.

Senator Lowell Weicker Jr. (Rep-Conn.), a member of the Senate Watergate Committee, said, "It has taken four years to bring the lessons of Watergate to full Senate consideration. Without meaningful reform now, the credibility of government will never be restored."

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