

Day	Part	Time	Quote
5/17/1973	1	00:42	<p>Robert MacNeil [Voiceover]: “In the Senate of the United States, a Resolution, to establish a select committee of the Senate to conduct an investigation and study of the extent, if any, to which illegal, improper, or unethical activities were engaged in by any persons, acting individually or in combination with others, in the presidential election of 1972, or any campaign, canvass, or other activity related to it.”</p> <p>Voiceover: From Washington NPACT brings you gavel-to-gavel videotape coverage of today's hearings by the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities. Here is NPACT's senior correspondent, Robert MacNeil.”</p> <p>Robert MacNeil: “Good evening from Washington. In a few moments we're going to bring you the entire proceedings in the first day of the Senate Watergate hearings, hearings to bare the truth about the wide range of illegal, unethical, and improper activities, established, or still merely alleged, surrounding the re-election of President Nixon last year.”</p>
5/17/1973	6	54:34	<p>Jim Lehrer: “We are running it all each day because we think these hearings are the important and because we think it is important that you get a chance to see the whole thing and make your own judgments. Some nights, we may be in competition with a late, late movie. We are doing this as an experiment, temporarily abandoning our ability to edit, to give you the whole story, however many hours it may take.”</p>
6/6/1973	4	27:06	<p>Senator Ervin: “Well, I still repeat what I said earlier in my interrogation of you; I think you have strengthened my faith in the old adage that an honest man is the noblest work of God. I will also meditate for a moment on the old saying, ‘What a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive.’ That is all.”</p>
6/6/1973	5	21:22	<p>Robert MacNeil: “It reminds one of the finals scenes of one of those Shakespearean histories. The forces hostile to the king are rising on all sides. Messenger after messenger rushes in with bad news. But the decisive battle is still some scenes away and we don’t yet know if this is a tragedy we are witnessing.”</p>
6/7/1973	4	34:32	<p>Daniel Inouye: “This involves the whole United States. I think political parties, the political process, the governmental process is on trial here. It’s not Mr. Haldeman, or Mr. Mitchell, or the President, I think all of us are. As today’s witness testified that he was of the impression that this was the name of the game, that we’re all a bunch of crooks, that stealing papers is done every day.”</p>
6/7/1973	4	36:00	<p>Jim Lehrer: “But as we end this latest round of hearings I’d like to put in a closing word tonight for the smaller shots. The little guys we’ve been hearing from: the Odles and the Reisners, the Caulfields and the Sloans and the Porters of this world called Watergate. First place it’s easier to identify with them and their problems. Some of them have aroused sympathy, others anger and disgust depending on the specifics of their actions. But they all have one thing in common and that of course is their littleness. They were the spear carriers for the generals who mapped out this disgrace called Watergate. Spear carriers deserve their comeuppance as much as the generals, there’s no question or dispute about that, but comeuppance is a matter of degree as is power and authority, isn’t it.”</p>

Day	Part	Time	Quote
6/14/1973	2	45:20	Jeb Magruder: “Now, I had gone to college, as an example, under—and had a course in ethics as an example under William Sloane Coffin, whom I respect greatly. I have great regard for him. He was quoted the other day as saying, well, I guess Mr. Magruder failed my course in ethics. And I think he is correct. During this whole time we were in the White House and during this time we were directly employed with trying to succeed with the President's policies and I knew how he was trying very diligently to settle the war issue and we were all at that time against the war as an example—I think this is the primary issue—we saw continuing violations of the law done by men like William Sloane Coffin. He tells me my ethics are bad. Yet he was indicted for criminal charges. He recommended on the Washington Monument grounds that students burn their draft cards and that we have mass demonstrations, shut down the city of Washington. Now, here are ethical, legitimate people whom I respected, I respect Mr. Coffin tremendously. He was a very close friend of mine. I saw people I was very close to breaking the law without any regard for any other person's pattern of behavior or belief. I believed as firmly as they did that the President was correct in this issue. So, consequently—and let me just say, when these subjects came up and although I was aware they were illegal, and I am sure the others did, we had become somewhat inured to using some activities that would help us in accomplishing what we thought was a cause, a legitimate cause. Now, that is absolutely incorrect; two wrongs do not make a right. For the past year, I have obviously had to consider that and I understand completely that that was an absolute, incorrect decision. But that is basically, I think, the reason why that decision was made, because of that atmosphere that had occurred and to all of us who had worked in the White House, there was that feeling of resentment and of frustration at being unable to deal with issues on a legal basis.”
6/25/1973	6	08:32	John Dean: “I began by telling the president that there was a cancer growing on the presidency and that if the cancer was not removed the president himself would be killed by it.”
6/28/1973	2	59:33	Howard Baker: “What did the president know and when did he know it?”
6/28/1973	4	32:43	Lowell Weicker: “Let me make it clear because I have got to have my partisan moment, Republicans do not cover up; Republicans do not go ahead and threaten; Republicans do not go ahead and commit illegal acts; and God knows Republicans don't view their fellow Americans as enemies to be harassed but rather, I can assure you, that this Republican, and those that I serve with, look upon every American as human beings to be loved and wanted. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.”
7/10/1973	5	62:36	Stephen Hess: “Well, what are we left with? We're left with the thought that John Mitchell if we're to believe his own words and on the basis of his own words, may have been the most ill-informed and incompetent presidential campaign manager in history.”
7/13/1973	6	28:07	Jim Lehrer: “The fact of the matter is what they're really pursuing is the President's knowledge, culpability, et cetera. Isn't the Committee walking itself out on to a plank? How are they ever really going to resolve the question when you continue to have witnesses like Mitchell and Moore, compared to Dean and Magruder and all of these many, many things, where there's no way to resolve them!”
7/16/1973	2	57:07	Fred Thompson: “Mr. Butterfield, are you aware of the installation of any listening devices in the Oval Office of the President?” Alexander Butterfield: “I was aware of listening devices, yes sir.”

Day	Part	Time	Quote
7/19/1973	1	01:22	Sam Ervin: “The evidence thus far introduced or presented before this committee tends to show that men upon whom fortune has smiled beneficently and who possessed great financial power, great political power, and great governmental power; undertook to nullify the laws of man and the laws of God for the purpose of gaining what history will call a very temporary political advantage. And I think that those who participated in this effort to nullify the laws of man and the laws of God overlooked one of the laws of God which is set forth in the seventh verse of the sixth chapter of Galatians: ‘Be not deceived: God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.’”
7/20/1973	1	09:06	Howard Baker: “Mr. Chairman, I am sure you will not mind, and I am sure the witness will not mind, if I inject a brief note of levity this morning. After our sad experience with the hoax, the phone call yesterday, I overheard the press corps remark that the real Alex Butterfield is in Tijuana—bound in tape.”
7/23/1973	3	25:15	Sam Ervin: “I deeply regret that this situation has arisen, because I think that the Watergate tragedy is the greatest tragedy this country has ever suffered. I used to think that the Civil War was our country's greatest tragedy, but I do remember that there were some redeeming features in the Civil War in that there was some spirit of sacrifice and heroism displayed on both sides. I see no redeeming features in Watergate.”
7/25/1973	1	01:23	Herman Talmadge: “Do you remember when we were in law school, we studied a famous principle of law that came from England and also is well known in this country, that no matter how humble a man's cottage is, that even the King of England cannot enter without his consent. John Ehrlichman: I am afraid that has been considerably eroded over the years, has it not? Talmadge: Down in my country we still think it is a pretty legitimate principle of law.
7/25/1973	1	38:24	Senator Baker: “To begin with, the chairman is fond of pointing out from time to time that he is just a country lawyer. He omits to say that he graduated from Harvard Law School with honors.” Senator Ervin: “If the Senator from Tennessee will yield, I would like to say a word in my own defense on that point. I had a friend introduce me to a South Carolina audience. He said he understood that I was a graduate of Harvard Law School, but by God, nobody would ever suspect it.”

Day	Part	Time	Quote
7/31/1973	7	59:03	<p>Jim Lehrer: “It is now after three in the morning, unless you live in the central time zone where it is still early, just a few minutes after two AM. So for the sake of my mother, and you other hardy souls who are still with us I shall be brief. I have only one point to make tonight. John Wesley Dean III may have found his match in Harry Robbins Haldeman and as a consequence, those open-minded people who long to think in simple, neat terms about Watergate may have had it for a while. In short, we might be right back where we were a few weeks ago. The crucial question of the President's knowledge and possible involvement in the cover-up, as well as that of his top aides, is suddenly as murky and unclear as it ever was and it's all because of Bob Haldeman. Like everyone else who has appeared before this Committee, opinions will undoubtedly vary on the truth and veracity of his total testimony. But any reasonable person would have to conclude that Mr. Haldeman has been an extremely effective witness for his side. His directness, his cool, friendly demeanor, and his air of sincerity have come through. Here again, without commenting on his truthfulness either, the only prior witness to come close to him on both the effectiveness and significance scales was John Dean. So unless those tapes are made public, or some other revelation comes our way, the senators as well as the rest of us who are interested may have to make an ultimate choice between believing John Dean or Bob Haldeman. That's the way it looks to me, at least, at three or so in the morning. Feel free to disagree. For Robert MacNeil and Peter Kaye, I'm Jim Lehrer. Good morning, we'll see you again tomorrow night.”</p> <p>Voiceover: From Washington, you've been watching gavel-to-gavel videotape coverage of hearings by the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities. This coverage is made possible by grants for special events coverage from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Ford Foundation and has been a production of NPACT, a division of the Greater Washington Educational Telecommunications Association.</p>