

White House: No Spy Director Here

McCord Office Next to Muskie's

10/19/72
By Karlyn Barker
Washington Post Staff Writer

James W. McCord Jr., one of seven men indicted in the Watergate bugging incident, apparently leased a K Street office next door to Sen. Edmund S. Muskie's campaign office last spring while Muskie was candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

At the time McCord was the security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

The co-owner and an employee of an optician's office on the ground floor of the building at 1908 K St. NW said McCord rented the second floor office there in May or June of this year.

The building's landlord refused to discuss the matter but confirmed that a man named McCord leased the office.

The building is attached to the one next door, at 1910 K St. NW, which served as Muskie headquarters from January, 1972, until the last week in July when it became the main office for the presidential campaign of Sen. George S. McGovern.

McCord, a former CIA employee and FBI agent, has been linked to one other spying incident in addition to the Watergate, where he was arrested June 17. Federal investigators say that while he was employed by the President's re-election committee McCord conducted an investigation of columnist Jack Anderson, apparently to learn where the columnist was getting information critical of the Nixon administration.

A spokesman for Muskie said Tuesday that "everything we had to say (about campaign plans) was being said" at the K Street headquarters. "The senator went in there frequently to make

See McCORD, A21, Col. 1

A Portrait of Dwight Chapin

Presidential aide Dwight Chapin—linked to reports of GOP espionage and sabotage—is described by friends as a "perfect gentleman" and "super-loyalist" who wouldn't "do a thing without (H. R.) Haldeman's authority or approval."

Details on Page B1

Ziegler Declines to Elaborate

By Peter Osnos
Washington Post Staff Writer

The White House denied yesterday that anyone presently employed there "directed activities of sabotage, spying (or) espionage" against Democratic presidential candidates.

"If anyone had been involved in any such activity," said Ronald L. Ziegler, press secretary, "they would no longer be at the White House because this is activity that we do not condone and do not tolerate."

Although Ziegler's statement appeared to be the firmest denial yet of reports linking White House aides to the alleged GOP sabotage campaign, it fell short of satisfying questioning reporters.

The press secretary re-

peated three times under questioning that no White House employee "directed" such activities.

Asked whether anyone in the White House was aware that such activities were going on, Ziegler replied:

"I think directed is quite clear. As I said before anyone who would have been involved in any such activity wouldn't be around here anymore."

Later, Ziegler was asked: "Are you asserting that no one in the White House was involved in this?"

He replied: "I am saying that if anyone was involved in that type of activity which I referred to they would not be working here . . ."

Yesterday's questioning focused on a New York Times report asserting that numerous calls were made to the White House and to the home of presidential appointments secretary Dwight Chapin from the telephone of a man federal investigators have linked to

See WATERGATE, A22, Col. 1

WATERGATE, From AI

the instances of alleged political sabotage.

The Times said that a telephone at the home of Donald H. Segretti was used for 28 calls to Chapin's home, the White House and the office of E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former White House consultant who has been indicted in connection with the June 17 break-in Democratic Party

headquarters at the Watergate.

The first of the calls, according to the Times, was in March and the last to the White House on June 23.

The Washington Post, quoting federal investigators, said last week that Chapin and Hunt served as Washington contacts for Segretti who was allegedly an operative in the sabotage-espionage campaign.

In addition, The Washington Post has examined telephone records of five long distance calls made on Aug. 18 to the Doral Beach Hotel, in Miami Beach, headquarters of presidential aides and other Republicans during the GOP national convention.

Those calls, the records show, are charged to Lawtony and a close friend of Segretti.

According to Young, the calls were made from his phone by Segretti, immediately after Segretti had been summoned to appear before a grand jury investigating the June 17 break-in at the Watergate.

The Post reported Sunday that Segretti told Young he was trying to reach Chapin. After those phone calls, Segretti flew to Florida, Young said, and met with unnamed presidential aides who briefed him on what to say to the grand jury.

According to Young's account, the presidential aides had copies of FBI interviews with Segretti, including one not yet 24 hours old. The White House had

branded The Post reports and subsequent reports in Time Magazine and the New York Times as "hearsay."

But thus far, neither the White House nor spokesmen for the Committee for the Re-election of the President has issued specific rebuttals of facts contained in the news accounts.

Monday, Ziegler said that he would not "dignify with comment stories based on hearsay, character assassination innuendo or guilt by association." He repeated the essence of that position yesterday.

He refused again to say whether the White House was investigating the reports of political sabotage, repeating that an internal White House probe had concluded that no one there now had any "involvement, awareness or association" with the Watergate case.

However, disclosures in the past week have portrayed the Watergate incident as only one part of a much broader campaign plan of espionage and sabotage.

Ziegler said that his denial that anyone now employed in the White House directed such a campaign was "an assertion" based on his understanding of "what is tolerated or condoned in the White House."

Columnist Jack Anderson, in a column published today in The Washington Post makes several new allegations concerning the effort to "disrupt and discredit" the Democrats.

Quoting unnamed White House sources, Anderson states that H. R. Haldeman, the president's chief of staff, "was the key man" who coordinated efforts to undermine the campaign of Sen. Edward Muskie (D-Maine).

The columnist also asserts that Haldeman coordinated efforts to boost the candidacy of Alabama Gov. George Wallace and abet the candidacy of Sen. George McGovern as the man Mr. Nixon would find it easiest to beat.

"Although there is no direct documentary link between Haldeman and the sabotage squad," Anderson states, "he issued instructions and received reports on all phases of the campaign."

McCord Had Spy Opportunity

McCORD, From A1

phone calls to political leaders and discussions about whether we would stay in the race and what we might do in Miami took place there at that time."

Leonard M. Gatti, landlord of the 1908 K St. building, said yesterday that it was his understanding that the second floor space "was to be used as an accounting office." Gatti said

he never met the renter in person.

Gatti refused to discuss the circumstances of the lease agreement or the duration, saying only, "A man pays his rent. He gets a key."

The Washington Post was told that McCord intended to use the office on K Street as a Washington branch of McCord Associates, Inc., a security firm he had opened in Rockville in the spring of 1971.

Paul Pattyson, co-owner of an optician's office below the one rented through Gatti, told The Washington Post Tuesday that it was James McCord who rented the office a few months after January when it was vacated by a landscape firm.

"I know it was him. He got mail here that had to be returned to the post office because he never picked it up," said Pattyson.

Pattyson said he was called by Gatti "in May or June, I think, and told the office had finally been rented—by a James McCord."

Maria Musgrave, an employee of Pattyson, said she once "loaned a key to get into the upstairs office" to a man who said he was James McCord. Miss Musgrave was unable to identify McCord from photographs yesterday.

She said she saw the man only once, at night.

She said there was no evidence that anyone used the office during the day because the mailmen and gasmen could never find anyone there.

"I had to let the gas people in to read the meter," she said, adding that the upstairs office showed no signs of being either renovated or occupied when she last saw it—before the present tenants moved in.

Jean Ballosi, owner of the Owl and Tortoise Restaurant around the corner from 1908 K St., said she leased the second floor office there about a month ago.

"It looked just like a landscape firm (that left in January) with maps and charts still on the walls," she said, "but I've completely redecorated it now."

Renting a room near the target of a surveillance operation is a standard bugging technique. The rented room is used as a monitoring post. In it, signals transmitted by radio transmitter bugs planted in the room under surveillance are picked up and recorded.

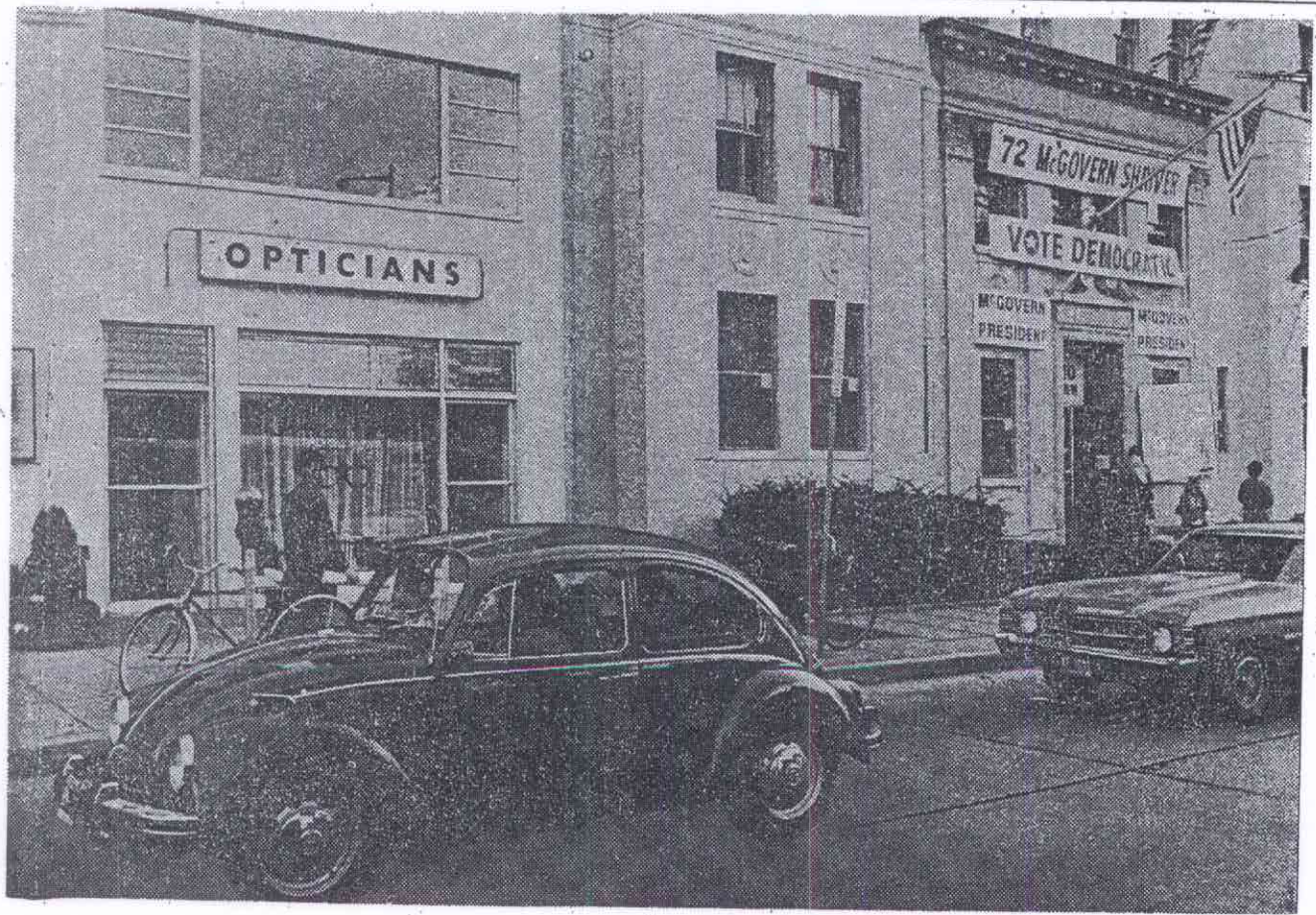
There is no evidence that McCord rented the K Street office for bugging purposes or that the Muskie headquarters were bugged.

new
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GENERAL NEWS

A 21



At left is the office space James McCord apparently leased in the spring when the place next door was Muskie headquarters. The location is at 1908 K St. NW, now next to McGovern headquarters.

By Craig Herndon—The Washington Post