

Nixon committee is target

Dems file \$1 million suit in 'bugging' case

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WASHINGTON — Lawrence F. O'Brien, Democratic national chairman, Tuesday filed a \$1-million damage suit against the Committee for the Re-election of the President and five "bungling burglars" accused of breaking into Democratic Party headquarters.

O'Brien assailed the apparent effort to plant electronic listening devices in his office

as "very, very serious political espionage."

The five suspects, including a former CIA agent who is on two Republican payrolls, are being held on charges of attempted burglary and attempted interception of telephone and other communications inside the party of fives in the Watergate Apartment complex.

AFTER THE arrests last weekend, the Committee for

the Re-election of the President and the Republican National Committee Monday fired James McCord, 53, a security consultant for both groups.

McCord and four other Miami men were seized wearing surgeons' rubber gloves and carrying 35-mm. cameras and eavesdropping gear.

O'Brien, who filed his civil rights and invasion-of-privacy suit in U.S. District Court, said

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the case has "a clear line of direction to the White House."

He decried efforts by former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell, now President Nixon's campaign manager, to "make it appear that McCord's employment by the Nixon re-election committee ended some months ago."

"IT'S APPARENT TO us now that there has been more than one incident," O'Brien said. "There are indications that this has been a continuing, long-term activity." He did not elaborate.

White House press secretary Ron Ziegler refused direct comment on O'Brien's suit and statement.

"The full process of law will



Lawrence F. O'Brien (left) Democratic national chairman, and Joseph Califano, attorney for the Democratic National Committee, discuss the filing of a \$1 million lawsuit at Washington news conference. The suit, filed following the break-in at Democratic Party headquarters, names the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and McCord Associates, a security company. (AP)

run its course," Ziegler said. "The appropriate investigations are being made."

HE REFERRED to a federal grand jury that will be impaneled to investigate the matter.

A total of \$5,300, mostly in \$100 bills with the serial numbers running in sequence, was discovered on the suspects and in the adjacent hotel where the four men were registered under false names.

IT WAS reported Tuesday that two of the men, one of them McCord, carried items that linked them with White House consultant Howard E. Hunt.

A story in the Washington Post quoted federal sources who said address books with Hunt's name and telephone number and a stamped unmailed envelope containing Hunt's personal check for \$6 were found among the belongings of the two men.

Ken Clawson, deputy director of White House communications, told United Press International that Hunt was hired last July 6 to help declassify the Pentagon Papers. For several months he has been a consultant to the President's Domestic Council.

MCCORD, who was hired last Jan. 1 by the re-election committee to supervise secur-

ity at its offices near the White House, was paid \$1,209 a month, after taxes. He earned an additional \$625 a month as a consultant for the Republican National Committee from October through February, when he was raised to \$666 a month.

McCord's firm provided the guards for GOP headquarters on Capitol Hill, a committee spokesman said, and he reviewed security arrangements when the building was opened last fall.

McCord who was an FBI agent from 1948 to 1951, moved to the Central Intelligence Agency and served 19 years before his retirement in 1970.