

SFC 8/20/72

# Bugging Suspect's Background

L.A. Times Service

## Washington

The Nixon campaign security official caught while allegedly trying to bug National Democratic Committee offices here Saturday was hired for the security post by Robert C. Odle Jr., former staff assistant to President Nixon.

Odle, 28, director of administration for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, refused to discuss the matter with a reporter yesterday.

A committee spokesman confirmed that Odle had personally hired James W. McCord, a former Central Intelligence Agency employee, as security director of the committee, but added Odle "will not be talking to the press at all."

The Associated Press reported that McCord was hired on the recommendation of Al Wong, a ranking Secret Service agent. Wong and a Secret Service spokesman declined to confirm or deny the report.

De Van L. Shumway, public affairs director of the committee, said, "the report is not true."

The FBI and Washington

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police, meanwhile, were investigating the incident in which McCord and four other suspects were surprised by police inside the Democratic headquarters early Saturday.

Although McCord and his firm, McCord Associates, Inc. of Rockville, Md., did security work for the Nixon committee and for the Republican National Committee, police officials said neither he nor his firm was licensed as required by law for such work in Maryland and Washington.

## PENALTIES

The law carries criminal penalties in both places.

The White House, the Nixon committee and the GOP committee all deplored the break-in. Spokesmen for the two committees said it was not done on their behalf or with their consent.

Democratic officials, meanwhile, demanded a thorough federal investigation and called for further explanation of what party chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien labeled "an incredible act of political espionage."

Joseph Califano, general counsel of the party, said he probably will file a civil suit in connection with the incident in federal court here today.

## SUIT

Such legal action, in the form of an invasion-of-privacy suit, presumably would give the Democrats a chance to seek subpoenas and to compel sworn testimony from Republican offi-

cial as to knowledge they might have of the incident.

Representative Jerome Waldie (Dem-Calif.) told the House he has asked the private, non-partisan Fair Campaign Practices Committee to investigate the incident.

Odle was a staff assistant to Mr. Nixon in communications director Herbert G. Klein's office from January, 1969, to May, 1971, when he joined the Nixon committee. In the summer of 1968 he worked for the Nixon committee as assistant to campaign director John Mitchell and campaign field director Richard Kleindienst.

Both the Nixon committee and the GOP committee reported it severed all relations with McCord yesterday.

## APPLICANTS

McCord was one of three of four applicants for the security post with the Nixon committee last year, according to Shumway. He said Odle first talked with McCord, then referred him to the GOP committee, which hired him October 1.

Odle subsequently hired him to do the Nixon committee's work beginning last January 1, Shumway said.

McCord is an Air Force reserve lieutenant colonel who served with the FBI in 1942-43 and 1948-51 and in the CIA from 1951 until his retirement in August, 1970.

In another development, the Associated Press reported that all five men found inside the Democratic headquarters have some ties to anti-Communist activities in the Miami Cuban exile community or to past CIA guerrilla actions in Cuba, including the Bay of Pigs invasion.