

Source of order for break-in at Demo office remains mystery

6/25/72

WASHINGTON (AP) — One week after the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters, rumors, accusations and leaks abound, but still unanswered is the central question: Who ordered the raid?

Democratic National Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien has filed a \$1-million invasion-of-privacy suit against the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Pointing to the fact one of five men arrested was security coordinator for President Nixon's campaign committee, O'Brien called the break-in and apparent attempted bugging of DNC headquarters an act of political espionage.

As names of a top White House aide and consultant to the White House entered the picture, President Nixon publicly deplored the incident and said no lieutenant of his was involved.

Former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell, Nixon's campaign chief, said the Committee for the Re-election of the President was not involved.

The Republican National Committee, a group separate from the re-election committee, employed the same security officer, former Central Intelligence Agency employe James W. McCord Jr. The Republican committee, too, denied involvement.

All five of the arrested men had some ties to anti-Communist activities in the Miami Cuban exile community or to past CIA activities in Cuba.

Plot feared

This has led to published implications that the break-in was a plot by Cuban exiles fearful of any future moves by a Democratic administration to recognize the Communist government of Fidel Castro.

When the five men in custody and four others being sought were linked at midweek to an organization called Ameritas, Washington police sources were quoted as saying it was a secret band of Cuban revolutionaries.

Ameritas turned out to be a Miami real estate partnership. Although it includes at least two known veterans of the CIA-backed 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, a reliable official source in Miami said Ameritas is nothing more than a business venture.

Amid an avalanche of fact and speculation about the break-in five months before a presidential election, it appeared certain that Republicans will continue to deny vehemently any part in the incident and Democrats will continue to hammer away questions raised by the attempted bugging.

The Justice Department has pledged a thorough FBI investigation. So far, the case has taken this outline.

At 2:30 a.m., June 17, plainclothes police alerted by a private security guard arrested five men inside Democratic headquarters on the 6th floor of the fashionable Watergate apartment complex.

The men were wearing rubber surgical gloves and carried expensive photographic and electronic equipment. They were unarmed and put up no resistance.

Alias given

One of the men gave his name as Edward Martin, of New York but admitted later Saturday, when talking to a bail agency, that his real name was James W. McCord Jr.

By the next day it became known that McCord, an ex-FBI radio operator as well as retired CIA official, was the salaried security coordinator for the Nixon campaign committee and had worked under contract to the GOP national committee.

McCord, 53, a resident of nearby Rockville, has operated a private security agency since retiring from the CIA two years ago.

The others arrested included a Cuban-born American, Bernard L. Barker. He is a Miami real estate man and

Oregonian

former CIA agent who played a key role in the Bay of Pigs invasion.

The other three, too, had played parts in the invasion and had links to the CIA. Most speculation discounts any involvement by that agency in the break-in.

The men, four of whom had checked into two rooms at the Watergate Hotel Friday, were charged with at-

tempted burglary and held on high bail that was later reduced.

On the men and in their hotel rooms, police found \$6,500 in new bills of \$100 denomination. Some of the money later was traced to the Republican National Bank, located in Miami's Cuban section.

Reservations at the Watergate for the four Miami-

in custody and earlier reservations for four other men who are being sought were made on stationery bearing the Ameritas letterhead. Barker was associated with the real estate venture. Its president said the letterhead was stolen. *STAFF*

There had been an attempted break-in at DNC headquarters at the time of the earlier observations,

raising the question of whether the men who were arrested had been trying to bug the DNC or remove devices planted earlier.

Early in the week, a new name came up—that of E. Howard Hunt Jr. Hunt, 54, is a former CIA man who played a major role in the Bay of Pigs and has worked recently as a consultant to the White House. He is

known to be close to presidential aide Charles W. Colson.

Hunt's name and telephone number were found in address books carried by two of the men in custody who presumably knew Hunt during the Bay of Pigs, sources close to the investigation said.

Hunt is close enough to the White House to have ob-

tained the services of Julie Nixon Eisenhower for a film on the education of handicapped children put together by a Washington public relations firm with still other ties to Republicans.

"My God," said Hunt when told by a reporter that his name was in the address books. He refused further comment and by Saturday had dropped out of sight.