

# Those Bugs Bother the

By WARREN ROGERS

By the Chicago Tribune World

WASHINGTON — With 19 weeks to Election Day and counting, the attempted electronic bugging of Democratic national headquarters has plunged the party's convention planning into deepest confusion, straining its relations with the Secret Service.

"The leadership of the party," one top Democrat told Countdown, "is convinced

THE SECRET SERVICE refused to give Murphy some names and the argument got so hot that S.S. Director James Rowley telephoned Democratic National Chairman Larry O'Brien. When Rowley appealed to him to take the Secret Service on faith, O'Brien replied:

"But, Jim, it was Al Wong who recommended McCord to Mitchell."

Wong is one of Rowley's key electronics experts.

James W. McCord, Jr., a former CIA employe arrested in the attempted bugging of O'Brien's office, was security chief for the Committee to Reelect the President, headed by President Nixon's top political adviser, John Mitchell.

With O'Brien's and Murphy's faith in the Secret Service destroyed, and at a time when assassination is a factor in American politics, an ugly cloud hangs over the Democratic convention and the fall campaign. The Democrats will verge on paranoia if they have to watch out for, not only avowed Republican snoopers as usual, but also certified government em-

ployes who may actually be serving the GOP — plus lurking crackpots with a gun.

INSIDE JOB — Democratic Chairman Larry O'Brien sees nothing funny in the bugging of his office. He refuses to joke about it. To him, it is deadly serious. He is shaken by indications that the spies had been at their work coldly consistently, systematically — registered in two rooms of the Watergate Hotel, where his office is, with easy access to it through the basement, the garage and the top floor. He doesn't know what's missing, and won't until an inventory is taken. Meanwhile, he now

has a rough idea of what happened to a confidential memo file he called for two weeks ago and couldn't locate.

STOPPING McGOVERN — George McGovern's New York victory pretty well clinches a first-ballot nomination for him, Democratic chieftains assure Countdown. Checks with party leaders —

## 19 Weeks to Election and Counting

mayors, governors and others — show they're overwhelmingly convinced Mc-

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that the Nixon Administration would not hesitate to use the Secret Service, the FBI or the CIA — anything at its command — to win this election."

Convention manager Dick Murphy, already beset with the normal turmoil of his assignment, is struggling now with abnormal worry over security. He just went through a big hassle with the Secret Service in Miami Beach. Focal point was his desire to know, for security reasons, who would be occupying each room at the Fontainebleau Hotel, Democratic headquarters during the July 9 convention.

# Democrats

Govern can't be stopped because he's too close to the needed 1,509 delegate votes and there's nobody to stop him with. They're not uniting or doing anything else about it, but they're sure that a lot of Democrats will go down the drain in November, with McGovern heading the ticket. To them, the big problem is that, as one put it, "Too many of his workers are more hung up on ideology than on winning elections."

## CAMPAIGN CAPERS —

This may give you an idea of how shook up the Democratic National Committee is over being bugged: Countdown received some routine mail

from the committee; when opened, the envelope was empty . . . Security and space restrictions at the Democratic convention are so tight that newsmen will have to get new credentials every day instead of once for the whole week.

Senate Democratic leaders are privately appealing to the AFL-CIO along these lines: "Okay, so you can't stomach McGovern, but for heaven's sake don't let the Senate go Republican" — meaning send your money to us . . . McGovern and Hubert Humphrey keep assuring each other that, when it's all over, they'll still be pals.