

# McCord Says He Alerted C. I. A. To Scapegoat Plan in Break-In

By MAJORIE HUNTER

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WASHINGTON, June 22 — James McCord Jr., one of the convicted Watergate conspirators, said today that he had alerted the director of Central Intelligence last year that efforts were being made to get the agency to take the blame for the Watergate break-in.

McCord said that he issued his warning in a letter to Richard M. Helms, an anti-Communist inspector of the agency and now Ambassador to Iran.

The Helms letter, he said, was one of seven that he had sent to officials of the agency between July 29 of last year and Jan. 5 of this year.

"I felt that an attempt was being made to wrongfully lay the blame for Watergate on the C.I.A.," he said.

McCord spoke as he emerged from three hours of questioning by the House Armed Services subcommittee on Intelligence Operations, which is looking into the agency's effort.

The session was closed, but both McCord and the subcommittee chairman, Representative E. J. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, confirmed that McCord had discussed the letters extensively during his testimony.

The earliest letter sent to Mr. Helms, was signed "Jim," but the others were unsigned, according to Mr. McCord.

Asked why he had not signed the others, McCord said that he "wanted to be sure" his name would not be generally known "in case the letters got out of channels."

McCord had worked as a C.I.A. agent for some 20 years before resigning several years before the Watergate break-in last June 17. At the time of the Watergate affair, he was security officer for the Republican re-election committee.

Officials of the committee had told the Nedzi subcommittee several weeks ago that letters signed "Jim" had been received, but that nothing had been done about them because various persons who had sent the letters had been given assurances that they would be kept confidential.

McCord said today that he had mentioned the name of his former attorney, Gerald A. Altshuler, among those who had suggested to him that the agency shoulder the blame.



Associated Press  
Charles W. Colson, former Presidential aide, in his Washington office yesterday. He said he had inquired about E. Howard Hunt Jr. after the Watergate break-in.

"I don't recall specifically if Helms was mentioned in the letters," he said.

McCord had testified before the Senate Watergate committee in May that Mr. Altshuler had suggested to him that James Schlesinger, who succeeded Mr. Helms as C.I.A. director, would "go along" with a plan to have the agency say that McCord was on its payroll at the time of the break-in.

Mr. Schlesinger later denied any knowledge of such a plan.

Representative Nedzi said that McCord told the subcommittee today that he first suspected efforts to involve the C.I.A. last summer after a conversation he had with Mrs. E. Howard Hunt Jr., wife of another Watergate conspirator.

"He was vague about what she had told him," Mr. Nedzi said, but he said it planted a definite suspicion in his mind.

Mrs. Hunt was killed in the crash of an airplane over Chicago. She had \$100,000 cash in her purse at the time.

The Nedzi subcommittee hopes to expiate this suspicion further by questioning Mr. Altshuler, who has been subpoenaed for questioning next Thursday. He has not appeared before any of the Congressional panels investigating the Watergate affair.