

Delay Asked In Democratic Break-In Suit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Committee for the Re-election of the President is worried that a hearing on a suit involving the break-in and bugging attempt at Democratic headquarters here could cause "incalculable" damage to President Nixon's campaign.

For this reason, the committee asked U.S. District Court Monday to postpone the hearing on a \$1 million damage suit against the committee until after the Nov. 7 election.

The suit was filed by Democratic National Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien after it was revealed that one of the five men arrested in the May 15 break-in was James W. McCord Jr., the security coordinator for the re-election committee.

However, to hear the suit before the election, the committee said, could deter campaign workers and contributions, force disclosure of confidential campaign information and provide the Democrats with a reason to hold news conferences.

The concern expressed to the court contrasted with a statement by former Nixon campaign manager John N. Mitchell, who earlier had said the Democrats' suit was a "political stunt."

The suit claimed damages on grounds that the break-in interfered with rights of all Democrats. The five men allegedly were arrested inside the Democratic headquarters and were charged with burglary. Police also seized a quantity of electronic bugging equipment.

Kenneth W. Parkinson, attorney for the re-election committee, told the court that hearings prior to the Nov. 7 election would "allow Mr. O'Brien and the Democratic National Committee to utilize this lawsuit as a forum from which to accuse this commit-

tee of complicity in criminal conduct throughout the election campaign."

He denied the committee was involved in the break-in. But he said repeated mention of the "coincidental employment" of McCord by the committee would be particularly damaging.

Meanwhile, E. Howard Hunt, a White House consultant whose name was found in the address books of two of the men arrested in the break-in, still has not reappeared publicly after dropping from sight shortly after the break-in was discovered.