

Watergate Suit Amended, Asks \$6.4 Millions

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Lawyers for the Democratic National Committee filed an amended version of their Watergate bugging suit against officials of President Nixon's re-election committee and others, doubling the \$3.2 million sought last fall and adding two more defendants in the action.

In addition, a memorandum filed with the suit yesterday asserted that the Democrats will explore the possible involvement of several former and current top administration officials, including John Mitchell, John Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman.

The new version of the suit—originally filed in June asking \$1 million in damages, amended in September asking \$3.2 million and now asking \$6.4 million—adds the names of Jeb Stuart Magruder and Herbert L. Porter, both former officials of the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Maurice Stans, finance chairman of the re-election

committee, again is named as a defendant, along with former committee treasurer Hugh W. Sloane Jr. The seven men, including former White House aides E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, who either pleaded guilty or were convicted on charges of conspiracy, burglary and illegal wiretapping and eavesdropping stemming from the June 17 break-in at the Democrat's Watergate headquarters also are named in the amended suit.

Robert S. Strauss, the new chairman of the Democratic National Committee, was added as a party bringing the action in the amended version.

The new version charges that the defendants "employed" Liddy, Hunt and former committee security director James W. McCord Jr., who was one of the seven convicted on criminal charges, to carry out "information-gathering operations by any means available," including burglary and illegal wiretapping and eavesdropping.

The new amended version charges that Magruder, Porter, Stans and Sloan "are responsible for the action of

their employees and agents," Liddy, Hunt, McCord and the four men arrested with McCord inside the Democratic headquarters.

Porter and Magruder were quoted in a statement released by the re-election committee yesterday as saying, "Our addition as defendants in the suit months after the incident is simply a smoke-screen. Neither of us had advance knowledge of the Watergate incident . . . Each of us has testified to that effect at least twice—before the federal grand jury convened to investigate the case and before the trial of the seven defendants in the case. Those who filed this suit are simply trying to get sensational news from dilatory court actions."

In addition to exploring the "possible involvement" of White House aides Haldeman and Ehrlichman and former Attorney General Mitchell, the memo filed with the suit lists these other officials whose "possible involvement" will be explored: Charles W. Colson, a White House aide; M. Douglas Caddy, a friend of Hunt; Dwight Capin, President Nixon's former appointments secretary; Morton B. Jackson, a Los Angeles lawyer; Herbert Kalmbach, President Nixon's personal lawyer; Frederick C. LaRue, Robert Mardian, Robert C. Odle Jr., Glenn J. Sedam, all present or former committee officials; William E. Timmons, White House congressional liaison; Kenneth Clawson, deputy director of communication; and Donald Segretti, described by federal sources as a key figure in an alleged espionage campaign against the Democrats.