

# Watergate defense links raid to fear of radicals

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Washington—A defense attorney in the Watergate bugging trial said yesterday he will argue that Republican spying on Democrats during the 1972 campaign was the result of fears that extremist groups threatened President Nixon and other GOP officials.

According to Gerald Alch, attorney for James W. McCord, Jr., former security coordinator of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, his client's attempts to plant bugging devices in Democratic National Committee offices and at McGovern headquarters had a patriotic basis.

## "Imminent danger"

The defense, Mr. Alch told newsmen outside the court, would attempt to show that Mr. McCord was under the impression that there was "imminent danger" from extremist groups in contact with the Democrats and he was actually seeking information about potential violence.

"If he was laboring under the belief that there was imminent danger to others, then what he did would not be illegal, and we hope the evidence

will show he had reason to believe just that," Mr. Alch said.

Mr. McCord, together with the other remaining Watergate defendant, G. Gordon Liddy, is charged with conspiracy, burglary and illegal eavesdropping at Democratic National Committee offices in the Watergate office building June 17.

Mr. Alch has said since the trial began in U.S. District Court more than a week ago that he will stress the intent of what Mr. McCord did, not his actual participation in the raid on the Watergate. As the attorney put it, "We are not going to try to refute the irrefutable."

The defense will show, Mr. Alch said, that Mr. McCord had conferred with law enforcement officers concerning potential violence during the presidential campaign, both in Washington and at the GOP national convention.

Such violence, according to the attorney, would have been directed at various Republican officials, "including the President."

It will be the defense line, Mr. Alch said, that Mr. McCord believed that by bugging McGovern headquarters, information might be obtained about the timing and planning of demonstrations contemplated.

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## Watergate lawyer links raid, fear of radicals

**WATERGATE, from A1** plated by leftist groups thought to be in contact with the Democratic candidate's organization.

In cross-examining Thomas Gregory, a 25-year-old student hired by the Republicans as a \$175-a-week spy in the campaign offices of Senator Edmund S. Muskie and Senator

George S. McGovern, Mr. Alch asked about contributions to the McGovern campaign by groups viewed as radical.

Mr. Gregory, however, was not helpful. He said he did not recall seeing any campaign contributions from Vietnam Veterans Against the War or from the National Peace Action Coalition, groups about

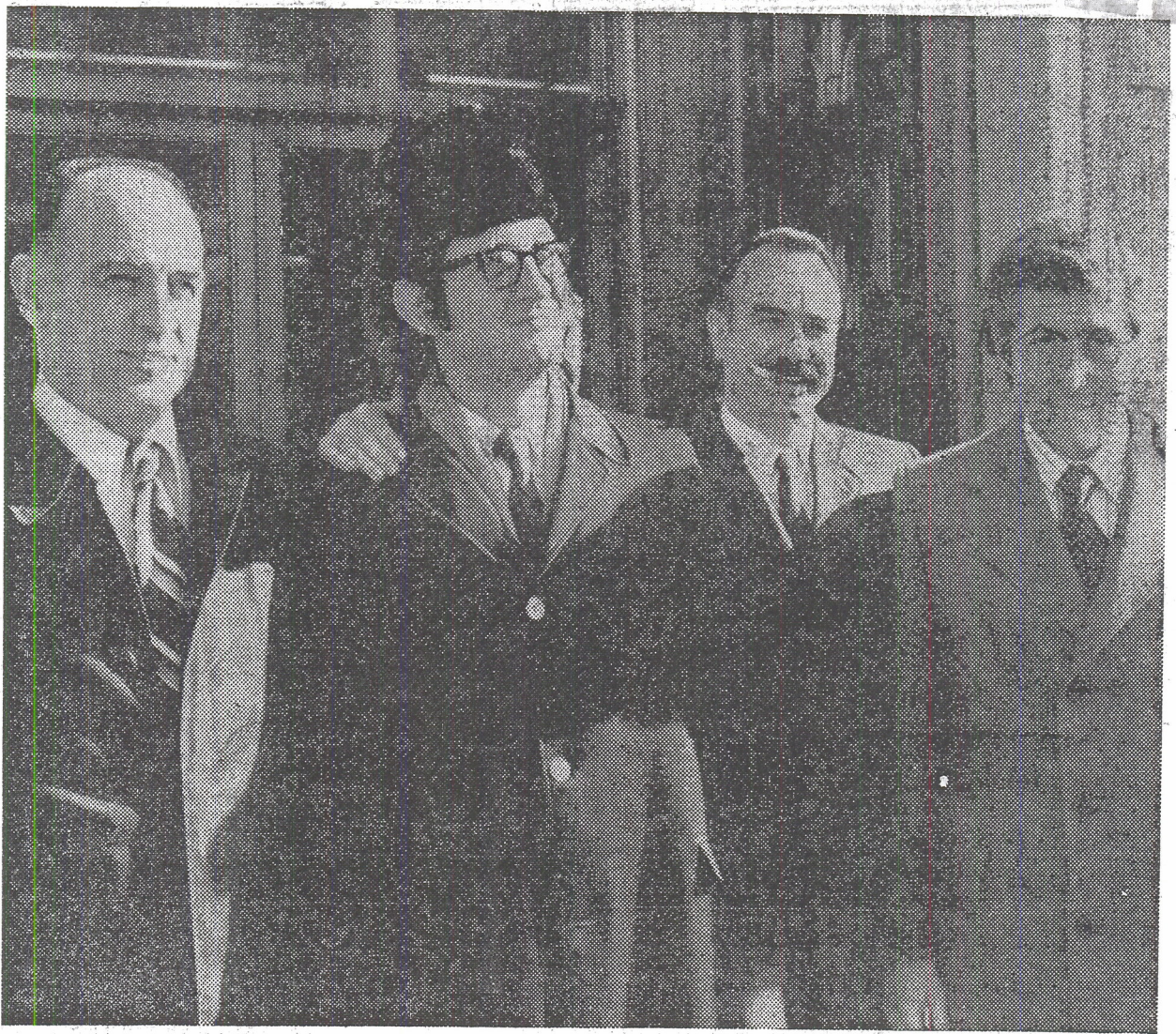
which Mr. Alch questioned him.

The witness noted that envelopes were coded according to the mailing list from which they were drawn. He said the only one he could recall was Americans for Democratic Action.

Mr. Gregory earlier testified that he tried to help Mr. Mc-

Cord in an unsuccessful effort to plant an electronic bug behind a ceiling panel in McGovern headquarters.

Three police officers gave evidence regarding their arrest of Mr. McCord and four former defendants—who have since pleaded guilty—in the Democratic offices at the Watergate in the early hours of June 17.



The only defendants in the Watergate case who have not pleaded guilty leave court with their attorneys. From

left are James W. McCord, Jr.; Peter Maroulis, a defense lawyer; G. Gordon Liddy, and Gerald Alch, attorney.

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