

# WATERGATE TRIAL IN CLOSED SESSION

Judge Clears Court to Hear  
Preliminary Testimony on  
Bugged Conversations

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By WALTER RUGABER

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The Watergate trial went into secret session today when a key Government witness was asked to name people he said he had overheard talking on a wiretapped telephone in the offices of the Democratic National Committee.

The witness, Alfred C. Baldwin 3d, said that he had been ordered by a defendant in the case, James W. McCord Jr., to monitor incoming and outgoing calls. He said he listened to about 200 conversations last May and June.

But when a prosecutor, Seymour Glanzer, asked Mr. Baldwin to identify those who had talked on the telephone, the witness was prevented from answering, the courtroom was cleared and a preliminary hearing of the testimony was held.

The closed session of the court was a result of a somewhat complicated side issue raised earlier by Charles Morgan Jr., a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union who is representing several Democratic officials.

At a conference before the trial began, Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the United States District Court here rejected Mr. Morgan's argument that all contents of the overheard conver-

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sations should be suppressed. The Government had promised not to take up the contents in detail, but the trial judge agreed that some indication of the contents might be needed to establish that the telephone had in fact been tapped.

However, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit overruled Judge Sirica on the issue. It set two conditions for admitting the contents into evidence.

The first was that the trial judge must hold a secret session with the prosecution, the defense and Mr. Morgan present to hear the proposed evidence.

Before his testimony was broken off, Mr. Baldwin testified that on May 1 he accepted a job offer from Mr. McCord, then the security coordinator for President Nixon's political organization.

The witness said that on May 26 he moved into a room at the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, a building directly across the street from the Watergate complex in which the Democratic offices were situated.

### Witness Quotes McCord

Mr. McCord, displaying two radio receivers, two tape recorders and a small portable radio, was said by Mr. Baldwin to have told him, "You'll be monitoring here; you'll be working here in the room."

For the first time Mr. Baldwin made it clear that none of the wiretapped conversations had been tape-recorded. The reason, he said, was that the eavesdroppers could not con-

nect the recorders to the radio receivers.

Mr. Baldwin said that he had included the "detailed contents" of each conversation in notes he made on an electric typewriter Mr. McCord took to the room last in May.

"My instructions were when I woke up in the morning to late at night—and anytime I was in the room—to monitor the units," he testified. This usually went on from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M., he said.

On all occasions but one, Mr. Baldwin testified, he turned over copies of his logs to Mr. McCord, who would sometimes call in the day to inquire about the information that had been obtained.

Mr. Baldwin said that he

once delivered the logs to someone else. Mr. Glanzer blocked any elaboration, indicating that this incident would be gone into later in Mr. Baldwin's testimony.

Most of the evidence Mr. Baldwin has given in court so far had been discussed by him in detail in an interview he gave last October to reporters for The Los Angeles Times.

He told them he once delivered the logs to the building occupied by the Committee for the Re-election of the President. He was reported to have said that he could not remember the name of the official to whom the logs had been sent.

Mr. Baldwin, a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who lives in Ham-

den, Conn., said in court today that his first assignment at the President's Re-election committee was to guard Mrs. John N. Mitchell, whose husband was head of the committee.

After one trip with the wife of the former Attorney General, Mr. Baldwin said that Mr. McCord told him he would not be accompanying her any more but that there would be other assignments.

### Observer at Demonstrations

"If the President is re-elected in November," he quoted Mr. McCord as saying, "This is the way to join the team and come up the ladder."

Mr. Baldwin said that he observed public demonstrations before taking up his eavesdropping post.

Mr. Baldwin said he spent about two weeks attending different rallies here, apparently antiwar gatherings, to learn of any imminent "threats" to the re-election group's headquarters.

Mr. McCord's attorney submitted a memorandum to Judge Sirica today outlining his contention, made out of court yesterday, that the defendant had been justified because he feared violence against the President and other Republicans.

"Acting under this duress," the lawyer, Gerald Alch of Boston, said, "the defendant reasonably felt justified in committing the acts complained of in order to effectuate the defense of others."

Mr. McCord and the only remaining co-defendant, G. Gordon Liddy, are charged with conspiracy, burglary and eavesdropping. Mr. McCord was among five men arrested at the Watergate on June 17.

Yesterday, Mr. Alch named several antiwar groups whose potentially violent plans he said might have been "indicated" to Democrats. All but one denied the charge yesterday.

The remaining organization, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, joined in the denials today, saying that its policies were nonviolent and that its plans had not been given to the Democrats anyway.

REMEMBER THE NEEDLE!