

Key U.S. Witness Tells Of Bugging Democrats

By Lawrence Meyer
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A key government witness in the Watergate bugging trial, Alfred C. Baldwin III, testified yesterday that he monitored 200 telephone conversations in the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters from a motel across the street.

Baldwin, taking the witness stand for the first time, repeated under oath details of how he eavesdropped in this fashion for about three weeks, following closely an account of his activities written for The Los Angeles Times in October.

He described how he came to his motel room one day and found James W. McCord, one of the two remaining men on trial, arranging some electronic equipment.

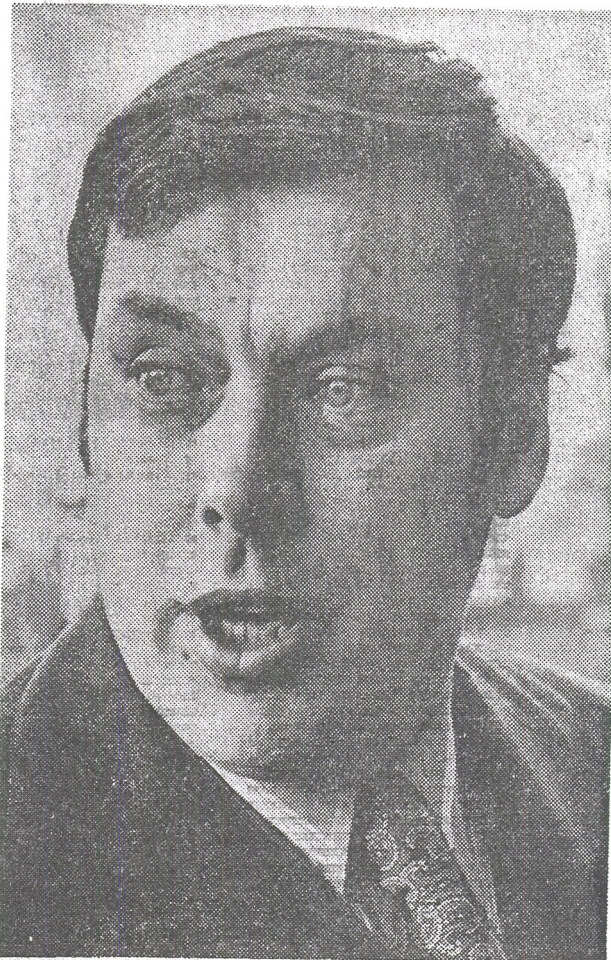
"He handed me some earphones and said, 'Listen, to this,'" Baldwin said, referring to McCord. Baldwin said he listened. "Mr. McCord said, 'Take notes. That's what we want,'" Baldwin said.

Baldwin, a former FBI agent, said he was introduced to two men, called "Ed" and "George" by McCord, later that evening. Baldwin identified "Ed" as E. Howard Hunt Jr. and "George" as G. Gordon Liddy.

McCord, former security director of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and Liddy, former finance counsel of the re-election committee, are being tried on charges of conspiracy, burglary and illegal wiretapping and eavesdropping stemming from the June 17 break-in at the Democratic Party's Watergate offices.

Five other men, including former White House consultant Hunt, were indicted with McCord and Liddy but have pleaded guilty.

Baldwin's testimony for the prosecution was interrupted



Associated Press

KEY WITNESS—Alfred C. Baldwin III arrives at Watergate trial where he testified he monitored phone conversations in Democratic headquarters. Story on A8.

before it was completed when Charles Morgan Jr., a lawyer representing the persons whose conversations Baldwin monitored, objected to a prosecution question asking Baldwin to reveal the names of the persons he heard talking.

Under a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling issued Friday, Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica had to hold a secret hearing on the contents of the conversations to be revealed in open court before allowing the actual testimony. Sirica adjourned the public proceedings to hold the required hearing.

Baldwin, the prosecution's 18th witness, testified with a matter-of-fact tone about his recruitment by McCord to serve first as Martha Mitchell's bodyguard, then as an "observer" of student groups who might direct violence against President Nixon, the

Mitchells or the re-election committee and finally as a silent listener monitoring telephone conversations in the Democratic Party headquarters.

McCord called Baldwin at his Hamden, Conn. home on May 1, Baldwin said, and asked him to come to Washington immediately for an interview. Baldwin said he flew down the same night, met with McCord the following morning and was hired after a brief meeting with Frederick C. LaRue, chief deputy to John Mitchell, the President's campaign manager.

His first assignment, the 36-year-old Baldwin said, was to guard Mrs. Mitchell on a trip. McCord gave him eight \$100 bills for expenses, Baldwin said, and he left with her May 2, returning May 8. His pay was \$70 a day while with Mrs. Mitchell, Baldwin said.

When he returned, Baldwin said, he went home to Connecticut and returned to Washington May 9 or 10. McCord said LaRue would be accompanying Mrs. Mitchell on her next trip, Baldwin said, but McCord "asked me to stay in Washington to conduct other activities . . . Mr. McCord told me this was the way to go up the ladder. If the President was re-elected, this was the way to join the team and come up the ladder." The new job involved a cut in pay,

Baldwin said, to \$225-a-week.

Baldwin said he attended different demonstrations at McCord's direction to see if any threats were made against the President, the Mitchells or the re-election committee headquarters. At the same time, Baldwin said, McCord asked him to move to the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge on Virginia Avenue, across the street from the Watergate.

About May 23, Baldwin said, he went to Connecticut, returning May 26 to his hotel room. "Mr. McCord was there and there were different pieces of electronic equipment in the room," Baldwin said.

"Mr. McCord said, 'I want to explain some of the equipment. This is what you'll be doing' . . . He said, 'You'll be monitoring here . . . You'll be working here in the room,'" Baldwin recalled.

In the room, Baldwin said, were two receiving units, a headset and two tape recorders. Baldwin said the tape recorders were "never used" because McCord was unable to hook them up to the receivers. In addition, Baldwin said, only one of the two receivers ever picked up any phone conversations.

After having Baldwin listen to a conversation and make notes of it, McCord told him he would be back in the eve-

ning with two men, Baldwin said. "Mr. McCord told me he would be introducing me under an alias . . . and he told me he would be introducing the other individuals under aliases because we're all in security work."

McCord later brought Hunt and Liddy to the room and showed them the equipment. "Mr. McCord stated they had received a conversation and handed Mr. Liddy the memo he had put in his wallet."

The three left and McCord returned about 11:30 p.m. and told Baldwin to come with him, Baldwin testified. Baldwin said he and McCord drove to near the Capitol and on a side street McCord told Baldwin, "This is what we're interested in. This is where we'll be working." It was Sen. George McGovern's campaign headquarters, Baldwin said. "We may move you up to this location and have you do the same thing here," Baldwin quoted McCord as saying.

Then they stopped by a parked car, where Baldwin said he saw Hunt on the front seat and Liddy got in the car with McCord and Baldwin. After driving past McGovern headquarters, Baldwin said, "Mr. Liddy advised Mr. McCord it was a no-go. We'd have to try it again some other time." McCord, Baldwin said, addressed Liddy as "sir."

Baldwin said he continued monitoring conversations from the phone of Democratic Party official Spencer Oliver, making logs of the calls and turning the logs over to McCord, who came by at least once a day.

"Do you know what Mr. McCord did with the logs?" prosecutor Seymour Glanzer asked Baldwin.

"No, I do not," Baldwin said.

"Do you know to whom the memos were addressed (that McCord prepared)," Glanzer asked.

"No, I do not," Baldwin replied.

Baldwin is reported to have told others that he could remember the names of three White House or Nixon campaign aides who received memos describing the telephone conversations: White House congressional liaison William E. Timmons, and campaign aides Robert Odle and Glenn Sedam.

Sources close to the Watergate investigation have said that Baldwin named Odle and Timmons from memory and picked out Sedam's name from a list when interviewed by the FBI. All have denied receiving the memos. Odle's name is on the prosecution's witness list. No mention has been made of the other two men at the trial.

Earlier, a metropolitan police officer testified that he had found an address book belonging to Bernard L. Barker, one of the five men who has pleaded guilty, in his Watergate Hotel room after the break-in June 17.

In the book were eight names, all apparent aliases, including the aliases of six of the original seven defendants. The two other names—Jose Felip Piedra and Joseph Reynaldo Granda—were not immediately described in a recent Newsday story as two men who were interviewed by the FBI concerning the Watergate incident.

Carlo Neal, front desk manager of the Watergate Hotel, testified yesterday that eight men, with the same names as those in Barker's book, checked into the hotel on May 26 with reservations through May 29. The \$1,208 bill was paid with cash, Neal said.