

Memory Fails 'Bug'

Witness

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A key government witness in the Watergate bugging trial, Alfred C. Baldwin III, testified yesterday that he could not remember the name he put on an envelope containing logs of illegal wiretaps and that he had no "personal knowledge" of who received the logs.

Baldwin's testimony, his first public comment under oath on the subject, appeared to conflict with earlier reports that he could remember the names of three White House or Nixon campaign aides to whom memos describing the wiretapped conversations were addressed.

In court yesterday, Baldwin described how his boss, security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, James W. McCord Jr., had instructed him to deliver the logs to the re-election committee headquarters. Baldwin was questioned by Assistant U.S. Attorney Seymour Glanzer.

McCord, along with G. Gordon Liddy, also a former re-election committee official, is on trial on charges of conspiracy, burglary and illegal wiretapping and eavesdropping stemming from the June 17 break-in at the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters. Five other men, including former White House aide E. Howard Hunt Jr., have pleaded guilty to the charges.

The trial ended its second week yesterday in U.S. District Court before Chief Judge John J. Sirica.

Ordinarily, Baldwin testified, McCord came to pick up the logs at least once a day in Baldwin's room in the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge where he monitored the telephone conversations in the Democratic headquarters across the street.

"On one occasion, I delivered the logs that covered a two-day period to the Committee

WATERGATE, From A1

for the Re-election of the President," Baldwin said, explaining that McCord "instructed me to take the logs to the committee . . . in view of the fact that he was being delayed in Miami."

The questions and answers went like this:

Glanzer: "And do you recall what period of time we're talking about?"

Baldwin: "Approximately June 6 or 7. It was a Wednesday of that week."

Glanzer: "Can you tell us what Mr. McCord's instructions were to you and how it came about he gave you the instructions?"

Baldwin: "The instructions were to take the logs, place them inside a manila envelope, then staple the envelope and over the staple put Scotch tape. He (McCord) then furnished me a name. I wrote the name down on a piece of paper, later transcribed that name to the envelope."

Glanzer: "As you sit there now, do you recall the name of that person or the name given you to put on there, if there is such a person?"

Baldwin: "I do not."

Glanzer: "Do you know of your own personal knowledge who the logs were delivered to ultimately?"

Baldwin: "No, I do not."

Glanzer: "Where did you deliver the logs in the envelope?"

Baldwin: "I delivered them to a guard at the Committee for the Re-election of the President."

Baldwin's testimony continued to follow a published account of an interview he gave to the Los Angeles Times,

which appeared in The Washington Post on Oct. 6. In that interview, Baldwin also said he could not remember to whom he had addressed the logs.

Baldwin is reported to have told others, The Washington Post has learned, that he could remember the names of three White House or Nixon 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 three 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.

Prosecutor Glanzer asked Baldwin if he had "personal knowledge" of who received the logs. The phrasing of the question and legal requirements barred Baldwin from answering in the affirmative if any knowledge he had was second-hand.

Baldwin, a 36-year-old former FBI agent who has been given immunity from prosecution for his testimony, described his activities in a flat, matter-of-fact tone, without any sign of emotion or hesitation when asked a question by Glanzer.

McCord, Baldwin said, wanted him to monitor "any conversations involving political strategy and of a personal nature. He (McCord) wanted all conversations recorded."

At one point during Baldwin's testimony, Judge Sirica interrupted the proceedings, sent the jury out of the courtroom and announced that the U.S. Court of Appeals had barred the prosecution from allowing any testimony concerning the contents of the conversations that Baldwin overheard.

Sirica read a brief order from Chief Circuit Judge David L. Bazelon and Circuit Judge J. Skelly Wright. Circuit Judge George M. MacKinnon dissented, saying he would permit the government to "refer to the contents in general terms."

Glanzer said the prosecution will decide by Monday whether it will appeal the decision.

Sirica yesterday released his written opinion in the matter, which was overturned by the appellate court. The opinion argues that the government should not be limited to the "minimum (proof) necessary to avoid a judgment of acquittal" but rather should be allowed to corroborate Baldwin's assertions that he monitored conversations by permitting him to describe what he heard.

In his testimony yesterday, Baldwin also said that about the end of May — May 27 to 29 — McCord went into the Democratic Party's Watergate offices one evening. "Mr. McCord appeared in Mr. Oliver's office," Baldwin recalled, describing what he said he could see from his hotel room. "He pulled the blinds shut."

In the early morning hours of June 17, when Washington police caught McCord and the

four men from Miami who have pleaded guilty to breaking into the Democratic headquarters, Baldwin described how he radioed a warning over a walkie-talkie McCord had given him.

"Are you reading this? Are you reading this?" Baldwin recalled a voice saying over the walkie-talkie after he issued the warning. Then Baldwin said the voice told him to stay in his hotel room, "I'm coming up."

Moments later, Baldwin said, he saw Hunt, who has been described by the Miami men as their leader, emerge from the Watergate complex and walk hurriedly toward a car. Baldwin said he also saw Liddy come out, but said he "couldn't be absolutely positive" on his identification of Liddy. "I didn't see them together," Baldwin said.

After the two men got into a car and drove away, Baldwin said, a voice came over the walkie-talkie and said, "We're on our way." Then Baldwin said he heard another voice whisper, "They've got us."

Baldwin said he then heard McCord say over the walkie-talkie, "Are you metropolitan police?" and another voice say, "What is that?"

Hunt appeared in Baldwin's hotel room soon after, Baldwin said, made some phone calls and then told Baldwin to pack the electronic equipment and take it to McCord's house.

Glanzer asked Baldwin if he said anything else to Hunt. "I asked him," Baldwin answered, "whether or not that meant that I was out of a job at this point."