

UPI043

(WATERGATE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN MITCHELL ARRIVED TODAY AT FEDERAL COURTHOUSE UNDER SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY BEFORE A GRAND JURY AMID REPORTS HE FULLY KNEW ABOUT PLANS TO BUG DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS IN THE WATERGATE LAST SUMMER.

ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ATTORNEY, MITCHELL ARRIVED AT THE COURTHOUSE ABOUT 9:15 A.M. AND WAS TAKEN UP TO A HEAVILY GUARDED SUITE THAT HOUSES GOVERNMENT PROSECUTORS. THE SUITE ADJOINS THE GRAND JURY ROOM.

HE STILL WAS SITTING IN THE ANTEROOM ONE HOUR LATER.

IN ADDITION TO MITCHELL, WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN DEAN III WAS EXPECTED TO TESTIFY TODAY BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED TODAY THAT MITCHELL, WHO QUIT AS NIXON'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER TWO WEEKS AFTER THE JUNE 17 SPY RAID ON DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, HAS TOLD FRIENDS HE REJECTED ON THREE OCCASIONS PROPOSALS TO BUG DEMOCRATS DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

THIS WAS A BIG DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS OTHER STATEMENTS MITCHELL MADE THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE AT ALL ABOUT THE WATERGATE BUGGING.

UPI 04-20 10:44 AES

UPI049

ADD 1 WATERGATE, WASHINGTON (UPI-043)

MITCHELL SAID TODAY HE ATTENDED MEETINGS LAST YEAR AT WHICH BUGGING AND OTHER POLITICAL ESPIONAGE AGAINST THE DEMOCRATS WAS DISCUSSED, BUT INSISTED HE HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT MITCHELL, WHO WAS PRESIDENT NIXON'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER AND CLOSEST POLITICAL ADVISER, PUBLICLY HAD ADMITTED PARTICIPATING IN ANY PLANNING OF POLITICAL SPY OPERATIONS.

HE HAD PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE A GRAND JURY LAST YEAR THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE WATERGATE INCIDENT.

UPI 04-20 11:03 AES

UPI077

ADD 2 WATERGATE, WASHINGTON

IN ANOTHER INTERVIEW ON HIS WAY TO THE COURTHOUSE, MITCHELL TOLD ABC THAT THE COMMITTEE FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT ALREADY HAD "AN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING OPERATION" WHEN HE JOINED IT AS CAMPAIGN MANAGER AND THAT IT CONTINUED "WITH MY APPROVAL."

MITCHELL SAID THE OPERATION WAS DESIGNED TO LEARN "EVERY BIT OF INFORMATION THAT IT COULD ABOUT THE OPPOSING CANDIDATES," BUT THAT "IT WASN'T NECESSARILY SURVEILLANCE" AND DID NOT INCLUDE WIRETAPPING.

"IT WAS A GATHERING OF INFORMATION FROM INFORMANTS AND INVESTIGATORS," HE SAID. "WIRETAPPING IS ILLEGAL, AS YOU KNOW, AND WE CERTAINLY WERE NOT AUTHORIZING ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES."

ASKED IF HE SHARED HIS WIFE'S FEARS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS TRYING TO MAKE HIM "A SCAPEGOAT" IN THE AFFAIR, MITCHELL REPLIED: "WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND FIND OUT, WON'T WE."

UPI 04-20 01:02 PLS

FORMER TEAMSTERS PRESIDENT JAMES HOFFA HONORED AT TESTIMONIAL
DINNER BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (SHOREHAM).
UFI 04-20 01:43 FES

UFT086

ADD 3 WATERGATE, WASHINGTON

MITCHELL'S ATTORNEY, WILLIAM HUNDLEY, TOLD REPORTERS MITCHELL TESTIFIED THAT "HE DID NOT AUTHORIZE THE BUGGING" OF DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS AT THE WATERGATE.

"WE FEEL THAT ALL THE FACTS HE IS PRESENTING ... WHEN EVALUATED IN LIGHT OF EXISTING LAW, WILL SHOW THERE IS NO CRIMINAL VIOLATION."

HUNDLEY SAID MITCHELL TESTIFIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE WATERGATE BUGGING ITSELF, BUT THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT SOME PERSONS WERE PLANNING ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AGAINST THE DEMOCRATS. HUNDLEY SAID MITCHELL TOLD THE JURY HE HAD REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH ANY ILLEGAL SURVEILLANCE.

"HE KNEW THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE HAD AN INTELLIGENCE PLAN THAT INCLUDED BUGGING," HUNDLEY SAID. "BUT HE CUT IT OFF ON ALL OCCASIONS. HE NEVER RATIFIED IT. HE SHUT IT OFF ..."

"THERE WAS A GENERAL INTELLIGENCE PLAN THAT I SUPPOSE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE IN A CAMPAIGN," HUNDLEY SAID. "HE'S A SOPHISTICATED MAN. WHEN HE SAW IT CONTAINED SOME ELEMENTS OF BUGGING, HE CUT IT OFF, HE STOPPED IT."

MITCHELL WAS SUBPENOAED BY THE GRAND JURY.

AS THE STORM GREW OVER THE WATERGATE AFFAIR, THERE WERE INDICATIONS FURTHER INDICTMENTS AND POSSIBLY RESIGNATIONS OF HIGH PRESENT OR FORMER WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS WERE IMMINENT.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HUNDLEY SAID "THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY OF THIS (TALK ABOUT PLANS TO BUG THE DEMOCRATS)."

ASKED IF THERE MIGHT BE "SOME ELEMENT OF PERJURY" IN MITCHELL'S STATEMENTS, SINCE THE FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD DENIED BEFORE A GRAND JURY LAST SUMMER ANY KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL ESPIONAGE, HUNDLEY SHOOK HIS HEAD NO.

"I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S BEEN ANY PERJURY," HE SAID.

HUNDLEY DECLINED TO DISCUSS REPORTS THAT MITCHELL HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ARRANGING PAYMENTS TO PURCHASE THE SILENCE TO THE SEVEN MEN CONVICTED OR WHO PLEADED GUILTY IN THE WATERGATE RAID.

"WE DON'T FEEL THERE'S ANY HUSH MONEY INVOLVED," THE LAWYER SAID.

"YOU MEAN THERE WERE NO PAYMENTS?" HE WAS ASKED.

"WE DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS THAT," HE REPLIED.

THE GRAND JURY BROKE FOR LUNCH AFTER QUESTIONING MITCHELL ALMOST TWO HOURS. MITCHELL WAS EXPECTED TO RESUME HIS TESTIMONY AFTER LUNCH.

UFI 04-20 01:50 FES

UPI 04-20 03:16 PMS

UPI103

(WATERGATE LEAKS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- AN FBI INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO FIND THE SOURCE OF LEAKS OF SECRET GRAND JURY MINUTES ON THE WATERGATE CASE TO COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON, GOVERNMENT LAWYERS SAID FRIDAY.

PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY EARL SILBERT, WHO HAS HEADED UP THE PROSECUTION TEAM, SAID ANDERSON'S PUBLICATION OF CHUNKS OF TESTIMONY GIVEN THE GRAND JURY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS HAVE "HAMPERED THE INVESTIGATION" INTO THE BUGGING OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY HEADQUARTERS LAST JUNE.

ANDERSON BEGAN PRINTING EXCERPTS FROM THE SECRET GRAND JURY MINUTES IN HIS DAILY COLUMN EARLIER THIS WEEK.

BY LAW, PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A GRAND JURY ARE STRICTLY SECRET, AND SILBERT SAID PERSONS WHO VIOLATED THAT SECRECY COULD BE PROSECUTED UNDER CONSPIRACY AND CONTEMPT LAWS.

IT WAS LEARNED THAT AN FBI TEAM SWEEP THE GRAND JURY ROOM FOR LISTENING DEVICES EARLIER THIS WEEK AFTER THE ANDERSON COLUMNS BEGAN APPEARING IN NEWSPAPERS COAST-TO-COAST. THE SWEEP TURNED UP NOTHING.

SILBERT SAID THERE COULD BE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE SOURCES FOR THE LEAK OF THE TRANSCRIPTS -- HIS OWN OFFICE OR THE COMMERCIAL COURT REPORTING FIRM THAT HAS BEEN TRANSCRIBING THE GRAND JURY MINUTES.

SINCE THE ANDERSON COLUMNS BEGAN APPEARING, HE SAID, PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN CHANGED SO THAT THE REPORTING COMPANY IS NO LONGER KEEPING COPIES OF THE TRANSCRIPTS AT ITS OFFICE.

UPI 04-20 03:20 PMS

UPI104

(WATERGATE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN MITCHELL CONCEDED FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY HE ATTENDED MEETINGS WHERE BUGGING AND OTHER ESPIONAGE AGAINST THE DEMOCRATS WAS DISCUSSED. BUT HE TOLD A GRAND JURY HE DID NOT AUTHORIZE THE WATERGATE SPYING.

MITCHELL TOLD HIS STORY TO THE GRAND JURY AMID INDICATIONS THAT THE GROWING WATERGATE SCANDAL WOULD PRODUCE MORE INDICTMENTS AND TOP-LEVEL RESIGNATIONS. WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN DEAN FOLLOWED MITCHELL ON THE WITNESS STAND.

SHORTLY BEFORE HE ENTERED THE GRAND JURY ROOM, MITCHELL WAS ASKED BY SEVERAL REPORTERS ABOUT A NEW YORK TIMES STORY THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS TO DISCUSS BUGGING. HE SAID THE STORY WAS CORRECT AS FAR AS HE KNEW. HE DID NOT INDICATE WHEN THE MEETINGS TOOK PLACE.

"BUT I WANT TO ADD THE PLANS WERE NOT JUST TO BUG SOMEBODY," MITCHELL TOLD A CBS REPORTER. "THEY WERE FOR MORE DETAILED INTELLIGENCE. WE WERE NOT THERE JUST TO TALK ABOUT BUGGING."

DURING A LUNCH BREAK, ATTORNEY WILLIAM HUNDLEY, INDICATED MITCHELL REPEATED THAT ADMISSION TO THE GRAND JURY. HUNDLEY SAID MITCHELL ALSO SWORE UNDER OATH THAT HE DID NOT AUTHORIZE THE BUGGING AND BREAK-IN LAST JUNE 17 OF THE WATERGATE OFFICES OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

"HE KNEW THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE HAD AN INTELLIGENCE PLAN THAT INCLUDED BUGGING," THE ATTORNEY SAID. "BUT HE CUT IT OFF ON ALL OCCASIONS. HE NEVER RATIFIED IT. HE SHUT IT OFF."

"THERE WAS A GENERAL INTELLIGENCE PLAN THAT I SUPPOSE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE IN A CAMPAIGN. HE'S A SOPHISTICATED MAN. WHEN HE SAW IT CONTAINED SOME ELEMENTS OF BUGGING, HE CUT IT OFF. HE STOPPED IT."

HE ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THESE PLANS. MITCHELL LEFT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IN MARCH, 1972, AND SERVED AS THE HEAD OF NIXON'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN UNTIL TWO WEEKS AFTER THE WATERGATE BUGGING WAS UNCOVERED. SEVEN MEN ALREADY HAVE BEEN TRIED IN THE CASE.

CONVICTED CONSPIRATOR JAMES MCCORD, AND JEB STUART MAGRIDER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE RE-ELECT COMMITTEE, REPORTABLY HAVE TOLD THE GRAND JURY THAT BOTH MITCHELL AND DEAN PARTICIPATED IN THE PLANNING MEETINGS FOR THE BUGGING. THEY ALSO REPORTED THAT MITCHELL APPROVED THE WATERGATE PLANS.

MITCHELL, WHO PREVIOUSLY DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL ESPIONAGE, TOLD REPORTERS TODAY THAT THE INTELLIGENCE OPERATION BEGAN BEFORE HE JOINED THE RE-ELECT COMMITTEE AND CONTINUED WITH HIS APPROVAL. HE SAID IT WAS DESIGNED TO GET "EVERY BIT OF INFORMATION THAT IT COULD ABOUT THE OPENING CANDIDATES AND THEIR OPERATION".

BUT WHEN HE WAS ASKED BY AN ABC REPORTER IF THE PLANS HE AUTHORIZED INCLUDED WIRETAPPING, HE REPLIED: "NO, NO, NO, NO. WIRETAPPING IS ILLEGAL AS YOU KNOW AND WE CERTAINLY WERE NOT AUTHORIZING ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES."

ASKED ABOUT A STATEMENT BY HIS WIFE, MARTHA, THAT HE WAS BEING MADE A "SCAPEGOAT" FOR THE INCIDENT BY THE WHITE HOUSE, MITCHELL SAID HE DID NOT HAVE "ANY INDICATIONS THAT WOULD BE THE CASE, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND FIND OUT, WON'T WE?"

HUNDLEY WAS ASKED WHETHER MITCHELL'S NEW INFORMATION INDICATED THAT HE COMMITTED PERJURY IN EARLIER STATEMENTS. "I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S BEEN ANY PERJURY," HE SAID. MITCHELL ADDED THAT EARLIER STATEMENTS WERE "STILL OPERATIVE."

HUNDLEY DECLINED TO DISCUSS REPORTS THAT MITCHELL HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ARRANGING PAYMENTS FOR THE SEVEN WATERGATE DEFENDANTS TO KEEP THEM SILENT ABOUT OTHERS INVOLVED.

"WE DON'T FEEL THERE'S ANY HUSH MONEY INVOLVED," HE SAID.

THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT DEAN HAD TOLD ASSOCIATES HE WAS READY TO IMPLICATE OTHERS IN THE CASE. DEAN ISSUED A STATEMENT EARLIER THIS WEEK SAYING HE WOULD NOT BE MADE A "SCAPEGOAT" FOR THE WATERGATE.

NIXON HAS SAID THAT HE WILL DISMISS ANY WHITE HOUSE AIDE WHO IS INDICTED IN THE CASE. AND PRESS SECRETARY RONALD ZIEGLER INDICATED THURSDAY DEAN'S DUTIES ALREADY HAD BEEN REDUCED.

SEN. SAM ERVIN, D-N.C., CHAIRMAN OF A SPECIAL SENATE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE, SAID HE FEARED MORE INDICTMENTS MIGHT POSTPONE HIS TELEVISED HEARINGS, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MID-MAY.

UPI 04-20 03:33 PMS

UPI053

ADD 2 WATERGATE, WASHINGTON

IN THE PROSECUTOR'S SUITE AT THE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE HERE WHERE MITCHELL APPARENTLY WAITED BEFORE A GRAND JURY INVESTIGATING WATERGATE, HE WAS ASKED BY CBS WHETHER HE COULD CONFIRM OR DENY A REPORT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORT TODAY THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS AT WHICH BUGGING WAS DISCUSSED.

MITCHELL REPLIED:

"I HAVEN'T READ THE TIMES ARTICLE CAREFULLY, BUT WHAT I DID READ IS CORRECT. BUT I WANT TO ADD THE PLANS WERE NOT JUST TO BUG SOMEBODY. THEY WERE FOR MORE DETAILED INTELLIGENCE. WE WERE NOT THERE JUST TO TALK JUST ABOUT BUGGING."

ASKED THEN ABOUT HIS REPEATED DENIALS OVER THE PAST 10 MONTHS THAT HE HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE WATERGATE AFFAIR, MITCHELL SAID HIS EARLIER STATEMENTS "ARE STILL OPERATIVE."

"DOES THAT MEAN YOU DID NOT HAVE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE WATERGATE BUGGING OPERATION?" MITCHELL WAS ASKED.

HE NODDED YES.

UPI 04-20 11:18 AES

UPI106

(MCCORD)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- WATERGATE CONSPIRATOR JAMES MCCORD TODAY SUED PRESIDENT NIXON'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND THREE OF ITS OFFICIALS FOR \$1.5 MILLION, CHARGING THEY HAD DAMAGED HIS REPUTATION AND CAUSED HIM "INTENSE MENTAL ANGUISH".

MCCORD'S SUIT WAS FILED AS A CROSS-COMPLAINT TO THE \$6.4 MILLION DAMAGE SUIT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY SLAPPED ON MCCORD AND THE NIXON CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AFTER THE BUGGING BREAK-IN LAST JUNE AT THE WATERGATE OFFICES OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

MCCORD'S ACTION APPARENTLY WAS DESIGNED TO FORCE THE CASE TO GO TO TRIAL AND END ATTEMPTS TO SETTLE IT OUT OF COURT.

THE SUIT NAMED AS DEFENDANTS THE COMMITTEE FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND ITS FINANCE COMMITTEE; JEB MAGRIDER, THE COMMITTEE FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR; AND MCCORD'S CO-DEFENDANTS IN THE CRIMINAL TRIAL, GORDON LIDDY, AND HOWARD HUNT.

MCCORD, WHO WAS SECURITY CHIEF FOR THE NIXON CAMPAIGN, ASKED DAMAGES FOR HIMSELF AND HIS NOW-DEFUNCT SECURITY FIRM, MCCORD ASSOCIATES, INC.

THE SUIT SAID MCCORD AND HIS COMPANY "HAVE BEEN DAMAGED IN THEIR REPUTATION IN THE SUM OF \$1 MILLION." IT ALSO ASKED FOR \$500,000 IN DAMAGES FROM THE DEFENDANTS BECAUSE MCCORD "HAS BEEN CAUSED BY THE INTENTIONAL ACTS OF DEFENDANTS ... TO UNDERGO SEVERE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND EMOTIONAL STRAIN AND HAS SUFFERED INTENSE MENTAL ANGUISH."

FILED BY MCCORD'S ATTORNEY, BERNARD FENSTERWALD, THE SUIT SAID THAT MCCORD HAD BEEN ASSURED BY NIXON CAMPAIGN OFFICIALS THAT ALL OF HIS ACTS WERE LEGAL "AND HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AND SANCTIONED BY THE HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIALS" OF THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND ITS FINANCE ARM.

"AT ALL TIMES ... (THE COMMITTEE), MAGRIDER, LIDDY AND HUNT KNEW, RATIFIED, AND CONDONED, EITHER EXPRESSLY OR IMPLIEDLY, ALL ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY MCCORD AND MCCORD ASSOCIATE, INC. AND THE CONSEQUENCES," THE SUIT SAID.

THE SUIT SAID THAT ALL OF MCCORD'S ACTIONS "WERE UNDERTAKEN WITH THE FOREKNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL" OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND TWO OF ITS HIGHEST OFFICIALS -- MAURICE STANS AND HUGH SLOAN.

STANS, FORMER COMMERCE SECRETARY, IS FINANCE CHAIRMAN FOR THE NIXON CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND SLOAN WAS TREASURER. SLOAN TESTIFIED AT THE WATERGATE TRIAL LAST JANUARY THAT HE HAD DISBURSED NEARLY \$200,000 TO LIDDY AND THAT HE BELIEVED STANS HAD APPROVED THE PAYMENTS.

UPI 04-20 03:45 PES

UPI107

ADD 1 WATERGATE, WASHINGTON (UPI-10)

ASKED BY REPORTERS WHETHER HE TOLD THE GRAND JURY DURING SOME THREE HOURS OF SECRET TESTIMONY WHETHER HE HAD SAID HE DID NOT HAVE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE WATERGATE, MITCHELL REPLIED: "I HAVE DONE THAT TWICE AND I DID IT TODAY."

ASKED TO COMMENT ON A PUBLISHED REPORT THAT HE ATTENDED THREE MEETINGS WHEN BUGGING PROPOSALS WERE OFFERED, MITCHELL REPLIED: "I NEVER APPROVED ANY BUGGING PLANS."

"NO SUCH OPERATIONS WERE EVER APPROVED BY ME UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES," SAID MITCHELL, WHO TALKED TO REPORTERS FOR ONLY A FEW MINUTES AS HE LEFT THE U.S. COURT HOUSE.

MITCHELL SAID THAT ANY TIME BUGGING PLANS WERE PROPOSED AT ANY MEETINGS THEY WERE "ABSOLUTELY FINALLY" ALWAYS VETOED. THEN, AS HIS ATTORNEY WILLIAM HUNDLEY, PROMPTED HIM, MITCHELL ADDED "THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CUT OFF."

"I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO KEEPS BRINGING THEM BACK," MITCHELL SAID.

ASKED WHETHER HE HAD EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN PAYMENT OF "HUSH MONEY" TO KEEP WATERGATE CONVICTED DEFENDANTS QUIET, MITCHELL REPLIED, "I HAVE NEVER MET ANY OF THE DEFENDANTS, I HAVE NEVER MET ANY OF THE COUNSEL, AND I NEVER HANDLED ANY OF THE MONEY."

PRESSED BY THE REPORTER, MITCHELL REPLIED: "I ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION FULLY AND COMPLETELY."

UPI 04-20 09:49 PES

Dan Schorr