

McCord Links Haldeman And Mitchell to Watergate

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WASHINGTON. — Convicted Watergate defendant James W. McCord has linked the name of President Nixon's all-powerful chief of staff, H. R. Haldeman, to the mushrooming political espionage scandal.

Informed sources said Haldeman's name was brought up when McCord testified before a Senate Committee on Wednesday.

McCord also said he was told former Attorney General John Mitchell personally approved the bugging of Democratic national headquarters during the 1972 Presidential campaign.



H. R. HALDEMAN
... key Nixon aide

The sources said McCord discussed Haldeman only briefly during the 4½ hour meeting behind closed doors. But one source said McCord

believed Haldeman was aware of the bugging operation at the time.

Sen. Lowell Weicker (R., Conn.), a committee member who was present during McCord's testimony, charged Thursday that a higher official who is still working in the White House directed a political espionage campaign that went beyond the Watergate burglary and bugging.

WEICKER, at a news conference, refused to name the official, who he said was the chief of spying and sabotage operation that included the

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Watergate bugging and other activities not yet publicly revealed.

But a Republican source told Knight Newspapers that Weicker has said privately that he believes Haldeman was the boss of the political spying.

The White house has repeatedly denied that any of its employes at the time were involved in the Watergate case, in which seven men, including former CIA-agent McCord, were convicted by a Federal jury.

Mitchell denounced McCord's sworn testimony about his alleged involvement in the Watergate affair as "slandrous and false."

ACCORDING to sources present at the Senate panel meeting on Wednesday, McCord, former security director of Nixon's re-election committee, said he was told about Mitchell's involvement by fel-

low Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy.

The sources confirmed that McCord also said he was told that White House counsel John W. Dean 3d, former special Presidential counsel Charles W. Colson and former White House aide Jeb Stuart Magruder had advance knowledge of the break-in and bugging at the Democratic offices in the Watergate complex here.

All have denied it. Magruder testified under oath at the Watergate trial that he had no prior knowledge of the illegal bugging.

Colson said Thursday he has made denials three times under oath — to the FBI, a Federal grand jury and in a deposition taken in a civil suit filed by the Democrats against the Nixon campaign committee.

McCord, who is scheduled to return next Wednesday for further closed-door testimony, reportedly indicated he expected to be able to produce documentary evidence to back up at least some of his allegations.

SOURCES said McCord supplied hearsay information, based on a conversation with Liddy, about a February, 1972, meeting at which Mitchell, Dean and others discussed the planning, budgeting, monitoring and scheduling of the campaign to spy on Democrats.

Although McCord was described after Wednesday's testimony as "generally cooperative" by the committee's ranking Republican, Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee, sources said he refused to answer at least two questions.

In one instance, McCord pleaded the Fifth Amendment when asked if he could supply details about any other illegal political bugging operations in addition to the Watergate affair.

Weicker, at his Thursday news conference, said press accounts so far have represented only "about one-tenth" of what was discussed with

M. Cord in the committee session.

THE SENATOR, who is conducting his own, independent Watergate investigation, charged that the administration was trying "to create the belief that G. Gordon Liddy is the beginning and the end of this operation."