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Bugging suspect hires Bailey aide

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gerald Alch, an attorney from the Boston office of F. Lee Bailey, has been retained by James W. McCord Jr., a defendant in the Democratic headquarters break-in case.

McCord is a former security coordinator for the Committee to Re-Elect the President and was one of five men allegedly arrested in the Democratic offices here on June 17. Alch said Monday that McCord would appear for a preliminary hearing on July 6 in District of Columbia Superior Court.

McCord and the other defendants are charged with attempted burglary. Police said they found bugging equipment when they made the arrests.

Meanwhile, the wife of E. Howard Hunt, a missing mystery figure in the case, said reports that her husband has fled to Europe are "perfectly ridiculous." But she refused to say anything further about her husband or his whereabouts.

"I have nothing to say except I think it's perfectly ridiculous what all the newspapers have had to say about this whole thing," she told a newsman.

Hunt had worked for the CIA and his name, along with notations indicating he was connected with the White House, were found in the address books of two of the suspects. He has not been seen in public since the FBI questioned him shortly after the break-in at Democratic party offices.

An unloaded pistol and walkie-talkie equipment similar to that found with the suspects were located by the FBI in Hunt's desk at the Executive Office Building next to the White House. Hunt's most recent employment was with a public relations firm, but he has not appeared for work since the break-in.

Mrs. Hunt has been dismissed from a part-time job as an interpreter at the Spanish Embassy in Washington, the embassy confirmed. A spokesman said Monday this was because of the political nature of the break-in and the mystery surrounding her husband.