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McCord Held FCC License On Behalf of Republicans

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James W. McCord Jr., arrested in connection with a break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters, held a Federal Communications Commission license to use walkie-talkies on behalf of the Republican National Committee, documents on file at the FCC showed today.

Police have said they found three highly sophisticated walkie-talkies with McCord and the four other suspects when they were arrested early Saturday.

Federal law forbids the use of any licensed equipment to commit an illegal act. But a commission official said it had not been determined yet whether the specific equipment found by police was the precise equipment that was licensed to McCord. He said the FBI is investigating that aspect of the case.

The FCC documents showed that on May 7 McCord said he wanted a special temporary authorization to use radio transmitters and transceivers (combination transmitters-receivers) in connection with

campaign security for Republican National Committee headquarters.

The letter, which McCord signed, said 90 percent of the equipment usage would be in the Washington metropolitan area, 5 percent in Miami during August, and 5 percent at various other locations in the United States from September through November — when the FCC license would expire.

"Equipment will be leased by McCord Associates, Inc., to the Republican National Committee" for the entire period, McCord told the FCC.

A special license was issued June 7 by James E. Barr, chief of the safety and special services bureau at the FCC, authorizing the operation of eight mobile units and two temporary base transmitter units on three frequencies: 156.260, 161.9725 and 161.9175 megacycles for use in connection with the Republican National Committee security activities.

Barr's letter noted that Craig Maurer had been appointed national coordinator for the use of radio at the GOP Miami convention site, and also said that use of McCord's

equipment might not be permitted in the convention hall because it could interfere with other radio equipment.

The license was abruptly canceled by Barr in a letter dated June 20 (Tuesday), after controversy over the break-in spread. "It is our understanding that your services with the Republican National Committee to provide security activities were terminated as of June 19," Barr wrote to McCord.

An FCC official said it was his understanding that the commission's lawyers contacted

yesterday that his press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, and his campaign committee chairman, former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell, had "stated my position and have also stated the facts accurately."

Democrats have charged that the case is "political espionage."

Mitchell denied any involvement by the campaign committee. Ziegler made the same denial for the White House, and characterized the incident as "a third-rate burglary attempt."

"This kind of activity, as Mr. Ziegler has indicated, has no place whatever in our electoral process, or in our governmental process," Nixon said. He repeated Ziegler's denial, saying, "the White House has had no involvement whatever in this particular incident."

De Van Shumway, spokesman for the Nixon re-election committee, counter-charged that "some other candidate" had placed two or more employees on the payroll of the Republican group, and that two memos on over-all campaign strategy were missing from that committee's files. He refused to detail these charges.

Silbert's statement in court yesterday, at a hearing on reducing bond for the five suspects, was the first official indication that federal investigators have enough evidence in the case to bring federal charges.

At the hearing, Judge James A. Belson agreed to reduce bond for four of the defendants, provided they reveal the source of the money that is posted as a guarantee that they will not flee prosecution.

When the men were apprehended, 58 \$100 bills were found with them or in their rooms, all with consecutive serial numbers.

The court originally had required posting of the full amounts of bond, between \$30,000 and \$50,000 for all five.

Total Reduced

Yesterday, Judge Belson reduced the total for three of the Miami men from \$50,000 to \$40,000, and agreed to a 10 percent posting. The three are really agent Bernard Barker, alias Frank Carter; Eugenio Martinez alias Jean Valdes, and Virgilio R. Gonzales, alias Raoul Godoy.

Belson acted on Gonzales' case after the others, originally postponing a decision because he was concerned about the suspect's prior "lack of candor" concerning his employment. Gonzales admitted in court yesterday for the first time since he was apprehended that he is a locksmith for the Missing Link Key Shop of Miami.

McCord is held in \$30,000 bond, and Belson also relaxed conditions so that he could be released by posting \$3,000.

The judge refused to reduce bond for Frank Sturgis, who legally changed his name from Frank Fiorini. He was characterized by government attorneys as most likely to flee if released.

Silbert continually characterized the suspects as "soldiers of fortune" and said they frequently traveled here and abroad with large amounts of money and using false names.

Officials have said that all of the suspects gave false information when first apprehended, and attempted to mislead investigators on several occasions.

Gonzales, who has worked for 13 years as a locksmith for the key shop, first told court officials he was a part-time house painter.

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ed the Republican National Committee immediately after they learned of McCord's arrest — "somebody remembered issuing McCord an STA (Special Temporary Authorization)," an FCC staff member said.

A handwritten note at the bottom of McCord's May 1 application — and signed by him — said that employees of McCord Associates would operate the equipment to be covered by the license.

One FCC official said equipment of the type for which McCord had sought a license could well sell in the range of \$1,000 apiece.

FCC files show that McCord also has another license covering two citizens band transmitters for use in his business. He received that license in December 1971. An FCC official said it was similar to licenses issued to 850,000 other citizens covering the same type of equipment that "thousands of kids have — everyone who wants to play Dick Tracy."

Other Developments

There were, meantime, these other developments in the bugging case:

Two new names were injected into the case, in which federal investigators are looking for four men besides the five in custody last Saturday and charged by D.C. authorities with second degree burglary.

The New York Times reported that Cuban sources in Miami told the paper that Angel Ferrer, president of a group of Cuban veterans who served together at Fort Jackson, S.C., after the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion, was in Washing-

ton at the Watergate Hotel at the time of the alleged attempt to install secret listening devices at the D.N.C. headquarters.

Another member of the group, Humberto Lopes, also was reportedly at the watergate then, the Times said.

Both men are residents of Miami. Efforts to reach them today were unsuccessful.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Earl J. Silbert disclosed in court yesterday that federal charges definitely would be filed against the five men being held.

Another bond hearing was set for this afternoon — the second in two days — and sources in the U.S. Attorney's office said that "additional information" would be used at the hearing to try to prevent the defendants from posting bond. It also was learned that FBI agents had conferred with Silbert early today.

FBI agent Daniel C. Mahan told a reporter today that he had interviewed one of the suspects, Eugenio R. Martinez, 49, in the D.C. Jail on Wednesday. Mahan said, "I can't say what happened in the interview, that's between the FBI and Mr. Martinez."

He said Martinez was the only one that spoke with him and that "Mr. Martinez can talk about what went on in the interview if he wants to."

Defense attorney Joseph A. Rafferty Jr. said yesterday such FBI interrogations were "highly out of order and violative of each of these defendants rights."

Mahan said that before talking to Martinez, the defendant signed a form saying he was willing to speak to the FBI. Mahan said the other four suspects refused to sign the form, indicating "they didn't wish to speak with me."

President Nixon, while refusing to discuss the break-in with reporters while the case is under investigation, said