

Mitchell Linked to Watergate Spying

By Jack Anderson

Former Attorney General John Mitchell's name has been linked to the Watergate espionage operation by a principal witness in the case.

The witness, Alfred Baldwin, has sworn he was a member of the Mission Impossible crew that spied on Democratic Party headquarters. One of his espionage reports, he has alleged, was addressed personally to Mitchell.

By Baldwin's account, he gave an oral report to James McCord, Jr., who was then the security coordinator for President Nixon's campaign committee. In Baldwin's presence, McCord allegedly put the report in writing and addressed it to Mitchell.

Subsequently, McCord was arrested at gunpoint with four other men inside Democratic headquarters. They were wearing surgical gloves and carrying eavesdropping equipment.

Baldwin has confessed that he monitored conversations picked up by a bug planted in one of the Democratic Party telephones. The bugged conversations were reported in memos, which McCord sent both to the White House and the campaign committee, Baldwin claims.

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(A spokesman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President said yesterday

that "we know of no such memorandum and John Mitchell never received any such memo.")

The memo that went to Mitchell, however, didn't deal with the bugging operation. As Baldwin tells it, he was asked to check on security in the building where the President's campaign committee has its headquarters.

He cozied up to a secretary in the law firm of Reeves and Harrison, which has offices in the same building. She told him that one of the law partners had contributed to George McGovern's campaign.

Security Risk

When Baldwin reported this to McCord, the security chief allegedly dashed off a memo to Mitchell warning that the law firm was a political security risk.

Baldwin gave the FBI a 100-page statement detailing his role in the Watergate caper. Thereafter, he reportedly was granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for his testimony before a federal grand jury.

A former FBI agent, Baldwin said he had been assigned at first as a security guard for Martha Mitchell. His instructions were not to let her out of his sight except when she went to bed. He was also

BY WHOM? WHERE??

handed a roll of money and was instructed to buy her anything she wanted and to pay cash, he said.

When he joined the Watergate espionage operation, Baldwin said, McCord shoved a .38 pistol at him. Baldwin protested that he didn't have a pistol permit. McCord allegedly told him that he didn't need one, because he was attached to the President's campaign committee.

On May 9, Baldwin said he caught an Allegheny flight to visit his home in Connecticut. As he boarded, the electronic anti-hijacking equipment detected the pistol. He couldn't produce a permit, so he was detained while the airline checked with the President's campaign committee.

Bank Records

Justice Department lawyers, apparently, have lied to the courts about the practice of snooping into people's private bank accounts without court authorization.

On several occasions, we have published excerpts from FBI files which prove bankers willingly turn over their customers' records without being served with a subpoena.

A month ago, however, government lawyers in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., told the federal courts the government always gets a summons or subpoena first.

Not only does this fly di-

rectly in the face of our documentary evidence, but it also contradicts the testimony of a highly placed Justice Department official.

The official, organized crime chief William Lynch, admitted to a Senate subcommittee last month that "in certain types of investigations" government sleuths get bank records without a subpoena "with some degree of frequency."

Under intense questioning by Sen. John Tunney (D-Calif.), who is leading a move to write laws protecting the privacy of bank records, Lynch also confessed that "in particular situations they (banks) have been reasonably cooperative."

In other words, what the U.S. attorneys said in court flatly contradicts the Justice Department's testimony before the Senate. Someone, obviously is lying.

Footnote: In his Senate testimony, Lynch said the FBI went after bank records only when investigating "violations of criminal statute." We have documented cases in which the FBI got the bank records of dissidents like Jane Fonda, Dr. Benjamin Spock, and black civil rights leader Floyd McKissick. So Tunney was prompted to ask Lynch whether "criminal statute" violations included "political surveillance cases." Replied Lynch: "I do not know what you mean by that."