

Bah, unbug!

Break-in goal to remove

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and DAN THOMASSON

The five men charged with the Saturday burglary of the Democratic National Committee Headquarters did not sneak in to bug the offices, but to remove "dead bugs" that had been planted earlier.

Highly placed police sources said there is "every indication" that the so-called bugs—all of which were found in the men's possession, rather than in spying position—"may have been there for some time."

Disclosure of this possibility coupled with other developments yesterday added a new dimension to an increasingly convoluted case which clearly is embarrassing Republicans from Congress to the White House where the name of a top aide to President Nixon has become involved.

On at least two other occasions prior to Saturday's raid, police said, offices of prominent Democratic party members in the Watergate Complex have been "tampered with." And police today believe there may have been one successful attempt to bug the inner sanctum of the Democratic Party.

On May 16 a law firm actively involved in the Democratic Party was broken into in the same way in which Saturday's raiding party slithered thru Democratic headquarters.

The firm of Freed, Frank, Harris, Shriver and Kampelman, located on the 10th floor of the Watergate Building at 600 New Hampshire-av nw, the same complex as the Democratic Committee suites, had its door jimmied.

On that day, police said, a guard found the doors of the basement garage taped to prevent them from closing, the same technique used by the crew in Saturday's burglary.

On May, 28, police said the door of a prominent Democratic official was "tampered with," and it is rumored that some tape was also used in this attempted burglary. Police have also disclosed that from May 26 thru May 29 the five men arrested Saturday were lodged at the Watergate Hotel and apparently met with four other men, who were registered there under assumed names.

Reportedly, there were two other tries at breaking into the Democratic National Committee offices last month, but party officials said they didn't think much of the incidences because nothing was taken.

Police sources said the bugs found on the men arrested Saturday — there were at least three sending devices found—telephone and room conversations can transmit about 150 yards. Tho police found no receivers either in the headquarters offices or in the hotel rooms that had been rented by the suspects, police sources said it would be possi-

ble to receive signals from the bugs in a car parked or driving near the Watergate buildings.

When they were arrested, the five men had in their possession — or in their hotel rooms — burglary tools, a walkie-talkie, a short wave receiver that could pick up police calls, 40 rolls of unexposed film, two 35 millimeter cameras and three pen-sized tear gas guns.

Police then said several file cabinet drawers in the office were open, and officers theorized

that the men planned to photograph papers from the files.

Sources in Miami, where all five suspects have ties, said they believe one possible motive for the bugging was the increasing fear of some Cuban refugee leaders that election of a Democratic President, particularly Sen. George S. McGovern, might mean a change in U.S. policy toward Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

The Miami sources also said Howard E. Hunt, a Washington public relations man and part-time White House consultant, was believed to have served as a Nixon administration link with the huge Cuban exile community in Florida.

The sources speculated that Mr. Hunt, who reportedly worked for the CIA in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, was asked by the White House to help gather intelligence on Castro agents who have infiltrated the exile organizations.

They said administration officials have been concerned for some time about Castro agents, partly because of the amount of time the Pres-

old bugs?

ident spends at his Key Biscayne retreat near Miami.

According to the New York Times, Mr. Hunt has refused more than once to answer FBI agents' questions about the Watergate break-in.

Mr. Hunt's name was found in notebooks of two of the five break-in suspects, including Bernard L. Barker, with whom he allegedly met in Miami two weeks ago. Mr. Barker also reportedly had a hand in the bay of Pigs operation.

Mr. Hunt has served as a consultant to White House special counsel Charles W. Colson. He had worked on the declassification of the Pentagon papers and, according to presidential Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, as an adviser on controlling the "Narcotics flow" into this country.

Mr. Barker was described by the Miami sources as a man with a "close and longtime association" with Cuban exile leaders.

Mr. Colson's name increased the irritation of Republicans over the fact that one of the five suspects, James McCord Jr., of Rockville, was

security officer both for the Committee to reelect the President and the GOP national committee. He has been fired from both jobs.

Lawmen are particularly confused by involvement of Mr. McCord, 53, a 20-year veteran of the CIA and former FBI agent, and Frank Fiorini, a mercenary soldier with 27 aliases who fought with Castro in 1958 and later returned to the U.S. to pilot free Cuba organizations.

These men are generally believed to be "well schooled" in the art of espionage, police said, and too smart to be involved in a "shoddy attempted burglary."

The men, who with their three confederates have an average age of 49, are now being tagged as the "The Over the Hill Gang" by police here.

The Justice Department, meanwhile, said it was leaving "no stone unturned" to solve the case. The FBI, department sources said, have begun trying to trace some \$6,300 in \$100 bills found on the suspects and in their room in the

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plush Watergate Hotel. Part of the money has been traced to Philadelphia and Miami.

Despite the newness of the currency, department sources said, the tracing job was "extremely difficult."

Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., contended, however, that the Federal Reserve Board "may be covering up for someone high in the executive branch" in the bugging incident.

WON'T ANSWER

Sen. Proxmire issued a steaming statement after Federal Reserve officials refused to provide him information on the \$100 bills.

He said he had tried for two days to get the information from the board, but that officials "ducked, misled, hid out, avoided calls, and gave us the idiot treatment."

Finally, he said, the board answered that it would give information about the bills only to "investigative authorities" — which Sen. Proxmire said meant the FBI and the Justice Department, which answer to the president.

"The fact that the Federal Reserve, an agent of Congress and independent of the executive branch, refused to cooperate with Con-

gress while falling all over itself to aid the executive branch suggests they have something to hide," Sen. Proxmire said.

"One would have to be extraordinarily naive not to feel the Federal Reserve may be covering up for someone high in the executive branch of our government who is directly involved with the espionage action against the Democratic national committee."

Sen. Proxmire, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, said he asked the Federal Reserve Board for information because "those who paid for this job might be traced thru the bills."

The bills were Federal Reserve notes and had consecutive serial numbers. The bundle totaled an estimated \$6,300. Commercial banks, Sen. Proxmire said, usually keep records of bulk transactions of such size.

He said he asked for the names of the banks that issued the notes, the names of those who received them, and the source of the check or other financial instrument they used to buy them. He said board officials, including Chairman Arthur Burns, "gave us the run-around" and refused to cooperate.