

Bugging Suspect

--New Reports

Associated Press

Washington

James W. McCord Jr., a former Central Intelligence Agency agent seized during a weekend break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters was hired as a Republican security coordinator on the recommendation of a ranking Secret Service agent, sources said yesterday.

The sources identified the

agent as Al Wong, head of the Secret Service's Technical Security Division.

A spokesman for the Committee to Re-Elect the President, who said McCord was fired "as of this (yesterday) morning," reported that McCord was one of "four or five people who applied for the position."

He said McCord was hired

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January 1 "because at the time we thought he was the best man for the job."

Both Wong and an official spokesman for the Secret Service declined to confirm or deny that Wong knew McCord or recommended him to the Republican National Committee or to President Nixon's campaign committee, the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

The Secret Service is charged with protecting the life of Presidents, among other duties.

McCord was on the payroll of the Nixon committee, a separate entity from the GOP National Committee, when he and four other men identified as having ties to Miami's Cuban exile community were seized inside Democratic headquarters Saturday night.

DENIAL

Top Republican officials have vigorously denied any knowledge of or part in the break-in. Democrats have called it "political espionage."

The official Secret Service spokesman refused to provide any background information on Wong or say how long he has been with the service.

The spokesman, however, in response to a question, said there is no record McCord ever worked part time or full time for the Secret Service.

McCord, 53, a former FBI radio specialist and CIA security chief until he retired two years ago, was first hired last fall as security coordinator for the GOP National Committee after his name was suggested by Robert Odle, director of administration for the Nixon committee. Odle could not be reached for comment.

McCord, a resident of nearby Rockville, Md., and the others were arrested inside the sixth floor headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the posh Watergate Hotel.

Police said they had expensive electronic and photographic equipment and burglar tools. The arrests were made by three plainclothes policemen after a tip from a private security guard.

They also had \$6500 in new and consecutively numbered bills, the origin of which, police said, is one of the more puzzling aspects of the case.

CHARGES

McCord and the others, all of whom gave Miami, Fla., addresses, have been charged with attempted burglary. McCord is being held on \$30,000 bail, the others on \$50,000 bail each.

There were these other developments in the case:

- All five of the men were revealed to have some ties to anti-Communist activities in the Miami Cuban exile community or to past CIA guerrilla actions in Cuba, including the Bay of Pigs invasion.

- Democratic National Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien said he will confer with the party's chief counsel on the possibility of bringing court action.

- Representative Jerome R. Waldie (Dem-Calif.) filed a formal complaint with the Fair Campaign Practices Committee against what he termed "the activities of a representative of the Republican National Committee to be Re-Elect the President in planting illegal wiretapping devices and photographing material in the offices of the Democratic National Committee."