

Watergate Figure And Censor Role

Washington

A House subcommittee chairman, Representative William S. Moorhead, said yesterday he plans a full-scale investigation of national censorship contingency planning and Watergate defendant James W. McCord's one-time role in it.

Despite strong denials from the Office of Emergency Preparedness, the Pennsylvania Democrat said he believes one of the activities of McCord's former unit was to prepare a National Watchlist including names of "questionable individuals."

Moorhead also alleged that OEP officials testified this year the national censorship plan would be implemented only in a nuclear or other general war, but that a copy of the plan shows it also could be implemented in a "brushfire conflict" such as the Vietnam war.

PLAN

The OEP said Moorhead was quoting from a 1964 version of the censorship plan which has now been changed to say the President will impose the plan only in the event of war and that it must be supported by an executive order or appropriate legislation from Congress.

The chairman of the House government information subcommittee said in a prepared statement:

"When men like James McCord are involved in political espionage and also are responsible for the official collection of information through a censorship system, I have no doubt that the official National Watchlist will pinpoint individuals slated for political reprisal."

Moorhead the Pentagon and OEP confirmed to him a Washington Post story that McCord had been a member of the Special Analysis Division reserve unit preparing contingency plans for censorship of international mail, travelers and telecommunications in a national emergency.

The Pentagon said McCord, as a reserve Air Force lieutenant colonel, was senior officer of the unit until he left last February.

ARREST

This was four months before he was arrested in the Watergate Democratic National Headquarters with four other men and charged with bugging activities.

But the OEP denied Moorhead's allegation that there is or has been a National Watchlist of people and information to look for since August 1945, the end of World War II.

It told Moorhead one of the unit's duties was to prepare "computer procedures for compiling a Watchlist" but "no actual Watchlist is maintained by the unit."

Associated Press