

Spying on Capitol Offices Laid to Watergate Figure

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By JOHN M. CREWDSON APR 2 1973

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WASHINGTON, April 1—A member of the Senate committee that is investigating the Watergate bugging case said today that one of the men involved in the illegal wiretapping was ordered last spring to keep the Capitol offices of certain Senators and Representatives under visual surveillance.

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., a Connecticut Republican, named James W. McCord Jr., who was found guilty in January of illegally wiretapping telephones at the Democratic party headquarters here, as the man who had ordered that the offices be watched to see who was "going in and out."

The Senator said that surveillance had been carried out by Alfred C. Baldwin 3d, a former F.B.I. agent who monitored the Watergate wiretaps during a three-week period last May and June.

Mr. Weicker also called on H. R. Haldeman, President Nixon's chief of staff, to "step forward" and tell the Senate committee about what Mr. Weicker alleged was Mr. Haldeman's "probable" knowledge of an unspecified campaign of surveillance and political disruption.

Mr. Weicker, who said that he was conducting his own limited investigation of the Watergate case as a supplement to the committee's work, visited Mr. Baldwin at his home in Connecticut this weekend.

In an appearance today on the Columbia Broadcasting System's television program "Face the Nation," Mr. Weicker charged that, in the weeks preceding the Watergate bugging, Mr. Baldwin had been "given an exhibition schedule of surveillance."

Mr. Baldwin's targets, he said, included four Democratic Senators—Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, the initial frontrunner for his party's Presidential

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nomination in 1972; Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Mike Gravel of Alaska and William Proxmire of Wisconsin—and two Democratic Representa-

tives, Shirely Chisholm of Brooklyn and Edward I. Koch of Manhattan.

Also on Mr. Baldwin's list, according to Senator Weicker, were three Republicans—Senators Charles H. Percy of Illinois and Jacob K. Javits of New York and McCloskey Jr. of California.

Representatives McCloskey and Chisholm waged unsuccessful campaigns in last year's Presidential primary elections. Senator Gravel was a candidate for the Democratic Vice-Presidential nomination at the party's national convention in Miami last July.

Mr. Weicker gave no indication that Mr. Baldwin's alleged "observation" of the offices involved any illegal activity. However, a spokesman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President denied "categorically" that Mr. Baldwin had been given such assignments while employed by the re-election committee.

The spokesman, Devan L. Shumway, added that Senator Weicker should have waited "until he gets more evidence before going to a nationwide television audience and making these types of sensational charges."

Mr. Baldwin could not be reached for comment.

McCord reportedly told the Senate committee under oath in a secret, four-hour session last week that the bugging team he had headed had undertaken other activities at the direction of Nixon campaign officials, including "other wiretapping" in addition to that at the Watergate.

Immunity Is Sought

The former chief of security for the Nixon campaign organization reportedly invoked the Fifth Amendment provision against self-incrimination when asked to elaborate. He has asked to be granted immunity from further prosecution and is scheduled to make another appearance before the committee on Wednesday.

Senator Weicker, one of three Republicans on the seven-member Senate select committee, repeated today his belief that it would be a mistake for the Senate investigation to focus primarily on assigning responsibility for the Watergate incident.

As an example, he cited "the schedule that never came off" for the weekend of June 17, the day McCord and four other men were captured with bug-

ging equipment inside the Democratic headquarters.

"The next activity," he said, was to go to the Capitol Hill headquarters of Senator George McGovern, the eventual Democratic Presidential nominee, and attempt to install a similar telephone tap there.

"Having then done their work in Washington," the Senator continued, "the unit was to move on to Miami and go ahead and bug Mr. O'Brien [Lawrence F. O'Brien, then Senator McGovern's campaign director] and some of the top officials down there [during the party's national convention]."

'Quite a List'

"You know, that's quite a list for any group," Mr. Weicker said, "so it isn't, as I say, it's not just Watergate, it's not Watergate at all. It's whether or not we as Americans are going to accept a new standard for our Presidential elections."

Mr. Weicker said at the outset of the interview that he found McCord's testimony of last week "believable," but cautioned later that McCord's accusations that high White House and campaign officials had had prior knowledge of the wiretapping "were based on hearsay."

"I want some corroborative evidence," he said. "We've gotten none from Mr. McCord. I'll know better on Wednesday when he's supposed to come back with some of the supporting evidence for the statements which he made."

According to sources present during McCord's testimony, he told the Senators that G. Gordon Liddy, his principal superior at the Nixon re-election committee, had assured him that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, then the Nixon campaign director, and John W. Dean 3d, White House counsel, had both approved the bugging operation in advance.

In addition, McCord reportedly described H. R. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff, as having known "what was going on" at the re-election committee. However, some of those present said later that they had not interpreted this to mean that Mr. Haldeman had been told beforehand of the wiretapping plot.

'No Specific Knowledge'

Mr. Weicker said today, however, that he had "no specific knowledge" that Mr. Mitchell had been knowledgeable about or involved in the bugging operation, and added that he was "inclined to disbelieve" that Mr. Dean had been, either.

At a news conference on Thursday, Mr. Weicker said that he had information that "somebody still in the White-

House," he would not say who, had directed an espionage and intelligence-gathering operation of which the Watergate affair was a part.

Asked today whether he had turned up any evidence that Mr. Haldeman, one of President Nixon's most powerful and influential aides, was involved in Watergate, he replied, "I don't think it's fair to point the finger at him and say, 'This is the man that was responsible.'"

But he added, "When it came to personnel, he knew what was going on [at the re-election committee], and there was nothing in the way of policies that he didn't know was going on, either."

Although Mr. Nixon has said that, under the executive privilege doctrine, no members of his personal staff will be allowed to make a formal appearance before Congressional committees, Mr. Weicker termed it "absolutely necessary" that Mr. Haldeman testify on the matter, under oath and in public.

'Competitive Attitude'

Senator Weicker said that although he was convinced that the President knew nothing in advance about the illegal and allegedly unethical activities of some members of his campaign organization, there was "an almost competitive attitude" among some campaign officials "as to who could do the dirtiest deed."

Asserting that "many of the persons that were a part of the Committee of Re-elect the President are back in the White House," and that others had "gone on to the various agencies," Mr. Weicker said that "good men and honest men and objective men like Pat Gray [L. Patrick Gray 3d, Mr. Nixon's nominee to head the F.B.I.] go down the chute," while others who "condone this type of political activity stay where they are."

Meanwhile, it was learned that Sally J. Harmony and Robert Reisner, two of the three individuals subpoenaed by Mr. Weicker's committee last week, were scheduled to appear for preliminary testimony tomorrow.

Mrs. Harmony served as a secretary to Liddy, a former Nixon finance committee counsel, who was convicted with McCord at the Watergate trial in January. Mr. Reisner, now a staff assistant in the White House personnel office, was executive assistant to Jeb S. Macgruder, the former deputy director of the Nixon campaign.