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Washington

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (Rep.-Conn.) said yesterday he believes White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman "probably" had knowledge of a wide range of political espionage, "disruption" and "surveillance" conducted on behalf of the President's re-election committee.

In an interview on CBS' "Face the Nation," Weicker, a member of the Senate's Select Watergate Investigating Committee, said Haldeman was fully aware of all the "personnel" and all the "policies" of the President's re-election committee.

"Now the time has come for the chiefs of staff to step forward and explain," Weicker said, adding "I think it's absolutely necessary that Mr. Haldeman testify before the select committee."

COVERUP

While not accusing Haldeman of advance knowledge of the Watergate bugging, Weicker said, "what the President has to realize now is, the issue really isn't Watergate it's . . . other espionage and . . . what seems to be an apparent coverup of Watergate."

Weicker also said it is "possible" former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, once the President's campaign manager, had knowledge of "espionage" and "counter-espionage" activities.

However, Weicker added: "I have no specific knowledge that John Mitchell was involved with the Watergate."

Emphasizing that the bugging operation was just a

single part of elaborate undercover activity that was conducted by Nixon's re-election committee, Weicker said that among the staff there was "an almost competitive attitude as to who could do the dirtiest deed."

CREATED

Weicker repeatedly said President Nixon's re-election committee was al-

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most wholly a creation of the White House and Haldeman designed to exclude the Republican National Committee from decision-making in the Nixon campaign.

In the television interview yesterday, Weicker also said that:

- "Apparently at the investigation of Mr. Haldeman" the Republican National Committee was requested to "keep full track of comments made by Senator George McGovern, Mrs. McGovern, Sargent Shriver and Mrs. Shriver during the course of the campaign." The Republican National Committee refused the assignment.

- The arrest of five men inside the Democrats' Watergate headquarters June 17 caused the termination of plans to bug Senator McGovern's headquarters on the same weekend. In addition, "the unit was to move on to Miami to go ahead and bug Mr. (Lawrence F.) O'Brien and some of the top officials down there." (At the time O'Brien was the Democratic National Chairman.)

- Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. sent a paid agent of the Nixon committee to Capitol Hill last spring to conduct surveillance on the congressional offices of nine Republican and Democratic critics of the Nixon Administration.

TARGETS

Weicker said the targets of the surveillance were the office of Senators Edward M. Kennedy (Dem.-Mass.), Edmund S. Muskie (Dem.-Me.), and Representative Shirley Chisholm (Dem.-N.Y.), all potential Democratic presidential nominees; Representative

Paul N. McCloskey (Rep.-Kalif.), who was challenging President Nixon for the Republican presidential nomination; Senators Jacob Javits (Rep.-N.Y.) Charles H. Percy (Rep.-Ill.), Mike Gravel (Dem.-Alaska), William Proxmire (Dem.-Wis.), and Representative Edward I. Koch (Dem.-N.Y.), all persistent critics of the administration.

Weicker identified the agent conducting the surveillance as Alfred C. Baldwin III, an ex-FBI key witness at the Watergate trial who testified that he monitored the wiretapped conversations of Democrats in the Watergate.

Specifically, Weicker said Baldwin's instructions from McCord were "to observe persons that were going in and out of the offices" of nine senators and members of Congress. Part of the Assignment was apparently to determine if any anti-war demonstrators were visiting the offices.

SESSION

After the television interview, Weicker said, "Baldwin told me of the surveillance Saturday during an eight to ten hour session I had with him in Connecticut."

During his testimony at the Watergate trial in January and in an earlier, in-depth interview with the Los Angeles Times, Baldwin did not mention the surveillance of congressional offices.

Baldwin yesterday reportedly denied Weicker's account of the surveillance. According to sources familiar with Baldwin's activities, Baldwin has said he was conducting surveillance on Capitol Hill to check on demonstrators who, McCord had suggested, might be found entering and leaving the offices of anti-war legislators. The surveillance was directed at the demonstrators, and not the congressmen, Baldwin has told others.

COMMITTEE

Devan L. Shumway, a spokesman for the Nixon re-election committee, responded to Weicker's statements saying, "we deny categorically" that Baldwin had such assignments while

employed by the President's campaign organization.

Shumway also said Weicker should have waited "until he gets more evidence before going to a nationwide television audience and making these types of sensational charges."

Weicker made it clear he believes President Nixon was not involved in the Watergate bugging or the other related acts of political espionage and sabotage in the 1972 presidential campaign. He clearly implied, however, that his opinion of Mr. Nixon did not apply to the President's chief of staff, Haldeman.