

McCord Says Dean Passed On His Job

Tells Court Nixon's Counsel Initialed Data Supporting Him for Security Post

By WALTER RUGABER - Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 6—

James W. McCord Jr. has indicated in sworn Federal Court testimony made public today that his employment by President Nixon's political organization was cleared by John W. Dean 3d, the White House counsel.

The convicted Watergate conspirator said that he had been interviewed about security work by one of Mr. Dean's assistants who sent information on "my background . . . and my qualifications" to the counsel to the President.

McCord said in a deposition on Tuesday that the assistant indicated that Mr. Dean had "initialed" the report and later showed signs of knowing "who I was."

McCord gave no indication that his early discussions about the security job with the Committee for the Re-election of the President covered political espionage or sabotage in last year's campaign, but his testimony on Mr. Dean's role was considered significant for several reasons.

It suggested that the White House lawyer had been involved

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in hiring both of the re-election committee officials who were convicted in January of plotting to wiretap the Watergate offices of the Democratic National Committee last year.

Jeb Stuart Magruder, a ranking official of the re-election unit, testified at the trial that Mr. Dean had "recommended" G. Gordon Liddy, who was then hired as counsel to the committee and to its fund-raising arm.

Mr. Magruder also testified that the committee later budgeted some \$235,000 for Liddy's use in what the official described as a legitimate "intelligence gathering operation."

Mr. Dean's role in hiring Liddy was raised by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee during hearings on President Nixon's nomination of L. Patrick Gray 3d to be permanent director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Gray, whose nomination was withdrawn yesterday, was criticized for sending more than 80 F.B.I. reports on the Watergate investigation to Mr. Dean in light of his relationship with Liddy.

Deposition in Civil Case

The Dean link to McCord was discussed by the convicted man with lawyers for both Democrats and Republicans in a series of civil suits growing out of the Watergate affair.

The Tuesday deposition was interrupted to allow McCord to appear before a Federal grand jury that has resumed its investigation of the case. McCord answered questions before the panel today and is scheduled to return on Monday.

The transcript of his testimony in the civil cases shows that McCord was questioned only by Kenneth Wells Parkinson, an attorney for the Nixon committee about the initial phases of his employment as security director.

McCord said that he had been first approached about the job by a Secret Service official he had known, Alfred Wong, and that after indicating interest he was interviewed by John Caulfield, a White House assistant.

McCord was questioned only by Kenneth Wells Parkinson, an attorney for the Nixon committee about the initial phases of his employment as security director.

McCord said that he had been first approached about the job by a Secret Service official he had known, Alfred Wong, and that after indicating interest he was interviewed by John Caulfield, a White House assistant.

According to McCord, Mr. Caulfield asked for "background biography, or something that I could send to John Dean because I work for John Dean. . . . He said he was sending some sort of a note to John Dean about me and my qualifications."

Mr. Caulfield showed the document to McCord after it had gone to the White House counsel. McCord said, and "indicated that Mr. Dean had initialed it or words to that effect."

The first meetings with Mr. Caulfield were said to have taken place in the fall of 1971, and it was after the first of them that McCord said he had been introduced to Mr. Dean by Mr. Caulfield.

"There was some comment by Mr. Caulfield which indicated to me that he and Dean



United Press International
James W. McCord Jr. arriving for grand jury session on Watergate case.

presumably had been discussing me and that he knew when he introduced me that Mr. Dean would know in what context I was being introduced," McCord said.

There was also this exchange, which Mr. Parkinson did not pursue at the Tuesday session:

Mr. Parkinson: You seem to have the occasion that you met Mr. Dean sticking out in your mind. Does that stick out for any particular reason?

McCord: Yes, because I was later in contact with his office.

The witness also said in his deposition that one of his duties at the Nixon unit was the protection of Mrs. Martha Mitchell, wife of the former Attorney General, John N. Mitchell.

Either in November or December, 1971, McCord said, he was instructed to examine the Mitchell apartment in the Watergate complex "to insure that her telephones were essentially secure and that her apartment was essentially 'clean' so far as possible."

On another occasion, McCord said, he had X-rayed the apartment after Mrs. Mitchell reported receiving a "death threat" over her unlisted telephone.

In another development today, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, confirmed that H. R. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff, had met privately with a group of Republican Congressmen earlier this week.

There were earlier reports that at the meeting Mr. Haldeman had taken responsibility for setting up the political intelligence organization at the reelection committee. It involved no illegal activity, he was reported to have said.

In his deposition, McCord asserted that there had been "bomb threats against my family." After his grand jury appearance today, however, he said that the threat had come soon after his arrest in the Watergate raid last June and

not after he began to discuss details of the case before the grand jury and a Senate investigating committee.

He said that the early bomb threat was unrelated to the charge in his letter last month to Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the United States District Court here that his family feared for his life.

Denial Is Issued

WASHINGTON, April 6 (AP)—A spokesman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, DeVan Shumway, denied tonight that there had been any meeting between

James W. McCord Jr. and John W. Dean 3d.

"John Dean just simply was not involved at any stage," Mr. Shumway said. McCord was recommended by Barry Mountain, an official of the Republican National Committee, he added.

Mr. Shumway said that McCord's "memory failed him" on the sequence of those events. He added that John Caulfield "says he has no recollection of introducing Dean to McCord, remembers no memo to Dean about McCord and denies writing one."