

\$1.5 Million Sought In Suit by McCord

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Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. sued President Nixon's re-election committee and three of its officials for \$1.5 million yesterday, saying they had "damaged his reputation" and caused him to suffer "intense mental anguish."

Sources close to the civil action growing out of the Watergate bugging indicated one of the principal reasons for the suit being filed is a fear by McCord's attorneys that the Democrats will settle their suit against the re-election group.

In his suit yesterday, McCord said he took part in bugging activities on the understanding they had been previously "approved and sanctioned" by the highest ranking re-election officials.

The Committee to Re-Elect the President, the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President, Jeb Stuart Magruder, Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt "ratified and condoned, either expressly or impliedly, all actions undertaken" by McCord and his security firm, the suit said.

The suit also said all of McCord's actions "were undertaken with the foreknowledge and approval of . . . Maurice H. Stans and Hugh W. Sloan Jr." Neither Stans nor Sloan were named as defendants.

There has been no evidence presented that former Commerce Secretary Stans knew expenditures he approved as committee finance chairman would be used to finance bugging operations. Sloan was the committee's treasurer.

"We're going on the theory that when people pay large sums of money for something they know what

they are paying for. It's a presumption. If it's not true, they can deny it, but they'll have to prove they didn't know," said Bernard Fensterwald, McCord's attorney.

McCord's suit was filed as a cross-complaint to the \$6.4 million damage suit the Democratic Party placed against McCord and the Nixon campaign committee after the bugging and break-in last June 17 at the Watergate offices of the Democratic National Committee.

There have been recent reports that suit would be settled out of court. McCord's suit would force a trial in the case.

According to the suit, McCord was assured by Nixon campaign officials that his acts were legal and would be performed for the "security of personnel and property" of the committee.

McCord and his company "have been damaged in their reputation in the sum of \$1 million" as a result of McCord's arrest and conviction during his employment, by the committee, the suit claimed.

The suit also asked for \$500,000 in damages from the defendants because McCord "has been caused by the intentional acts of defendants . . . to undergo severe physical, mental and emotional strain and has suffered intense mental anguish."

McCord also asked yesterday for a change in his bond provisions so he could go to Ocean City, Md., for a weekend later this month and to London for a television appearance next month. McCord is currently on \$100,000 bond and must restrict his travel to Washington and the Maryland suburbs.