

Watergate

Pot Still

Boiling

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON—The possibility that top presidential adviser H. R. Haldeman was involved in the Watergate bugging or a subsequent coverup is being investigated by a federal grand jury, the Washington Star-News reported in today's editions.

The newspaper, quoting informed sources, said the name of another important presidential adviser, John D. Ehrlichman, also has come up in the investigation.

The Star-News also quoted a source close to former Attorney General John Mitchell as saying that Mitchell has told associates the Watergate affair was approved by someone at the White House.

In other developments:

- Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. alleged that former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans, Nixon's chief fund-raiser, knew about and approved McCord's actions when McCord was security chief for the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

- White House Counsel John W. Dean III was reported by the New York Times to have supervised the payment of \$175,000 in cash from Republican campaign funds to the Watergate defendants.

- The grand jury which indicted the Watergate

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Seven continued to gather evidence and interview top-level witnesses, not only about the bugging itself but also possible cover-up and obstruction of justice in connection with it. One source close to the case said there may be indictments of lawyers as well as of the officials.

- Herbert W. Kalmbach, personal lawyer for the President, spent nearly three hours with U.S. prosecutor Earl J. Silbert. Upon leaving the courthouse, Kalmbach brushed off questions with a stream of "no comments."

McCord, convicted of wiretapping in the Watergate trial, charged that his actions were "approved and sanctioned by the highest ranking officials of CRP (the

Committee to Re-elect the President)." McCord made the allegation in a lawsuit seeking \$1.5 million damages from his former employers.

- White House chief of staff Haldeman and Nixon's chief domestic adviser, Ehrlichman, hired promi-

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nent Washington lawyer John J. Wilson to represent them.

Wilson said, however, that he was only giving advice at this stage and that neither man had been summoned to appear before the federal grand jury now probing the political espionage case.

McCord's Charges

In Key Biscayne, where President Nixon is spending the Easter weekend, a White

the seven defendants and their lawyers after the June bugging arrests.

According to the Times' sources, defendants Liddy, E. Howard Hunt Jr. and

House source said Haldeman and Ehrlichman retained an attorney simply because their names have appeared in various news accounts relating to Watergate.

A source close to the Senate investigation of the Watergate case reported last month that McCord had said Haldeman had to be aware of the Watergate operation.

And Republican Sen. Lowell P. Weicker of Connecticut, a member of the Senate investigating committee, said in a television panel show April 1 that he believes Haldeman "knew what was going on" in connection with the Watergate burglary and wiretapping.

However, on April 4, committee chairman Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) and ranking Republican member Howard Baker Jr. (Tenn.) said "as of this time it has received no evidence of any nature" linking Haldeman to political espionage.

The Los Angeles Times said in its Sunday editions that former White House counsel Charles Colson reportedly has documentary evidence the administration tried to cover up the Watergate affair and is ready to testify.

Colson has been linked to the Watergate incident in articles, but he has denied he had any role in the affair.

The newspaper also quoted an unnamed source close to Mitchell and former White House aide Frederick LaRue, who served as a top assistant to Mitchell, as saying the government had informed them they are targets of the investigation and subject to possible indictment.

Colson's law partner, David Shapiro, said in an interview that Colson would "be in a position to say something very shortly" and would "have plenty to say and it's going to be a very good story," the Times said.

"I figured out a long time ago that he would never get the herring out of his back pocket until the guys who were really responsible were nailed," the Times quoted Shapiro as saying.

In another Watergate development yesterday the Washington Star-News quoted sources as saying plans for the Watergate bugging were personally approved by John Mitchell.

Liddy's Role

Mitchell denied Friday that he had approved such plans although he now says such proposals had been made in his presence. He told newsmen "that no such operations were ever approved by me at any time under any circumstances."

The Star-News quoted highly reliable sources close to the investigation as saying the idea of planting electronic wiretaps and listening devices at the Watergate

was originated by G. Gordon Liddy, the former White House and Nixon campaign official who has been convicted in the case.

The article said the idea was brought forward at a series of "almost daily" Nixon campaign strategy sessions early in 1972 attended by

Mitchell, Liddy, Dean and Jeb Stuart Magruder, former White House aide who at the time was running the Nixon campaign organization.

"According to these sources, the plan was eventually approved personally by former Attorney General

John Mitchell," the Star-News said. DeVan L. Shumway, spokesman for the Nixon campaign committee, denied any "almost daily" strategy meetings at that stage of the campaign.

Shumway said there were weekly meetings, but "that subject to my knowledge

never came up at those meetings."

Mitchell, who had returned to New York, was not immediately available for comment.

The Washington Post yesterday quoted an unnamed associate of Mitchell as saying the former attor-

ney general told the grand jury he approved payments from President Nixon's reelection campaign funds to the seven Watergate conspirators after their arrests.

However, the Post said Mitchell maintained under oath that the money was intended to pay their legal fees—

not buy their silence. The Post said Mitchell did not mention amounts of money.

The New York Times yesterday quoted sources close to the case as saying Dean supervised payment of more than \$175,000 in \$100 bills to

McCord received \$3000 a month in return for their silence and that the four other defendants, all from Miami, got \$1000 a month each.