

## He 'Thought Break-In Legal'

# McCord's Motives

### Washington

Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. has sworn that he considered the Watergate break-in and bugging legal because he had received assurance that the operation had been cleared by then-Attorney General John N. Mitchell and then-presidential counsel John W. Dean III.

Had he not been so assured, McCord said, "I would not have participated." The assurances, he said, came early in 1972 from G. Gordon Liddy, then counsel to the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President and later convicted with McCord in the Watergate conspiracy trial.

McCord said he had determined that "had the operations been clearly illegal, he (Mitchell) being the top government lawyer and Mr. Dean being the top government lawyer within the White House . . . would have turned them (the plans) down at the first meeting, which was not done according to Mr. Liddy."

McCord's statements came in a wideranging, 333-page deposition given April 30 and May 1 in connection with civil suits that grew out of the Watergate break-in last June. The deposition was made public late Thursday.

### DEPOSITIONS

Much of the information in the deposition had been previously reported, but attributed to sources who knew of McCord's testimony. In the depositions, McCord provides many additional details and publicly sheds light on what he describes as his own motives — in joining the Watergate break-in gang.

As previously reported, most of the information linking Mitchell, Dean and others to the Watergate bug-

ging came second-hand from Liddy, McCord said.

McCord also explained further the points he made in a letter to Judge John J. Sirica of the U.S. District Court in March when McCord agreed to cooperate with the continuing Watergate investigation.

### CHARGES

In his deposition, McCord states, among other things, that:

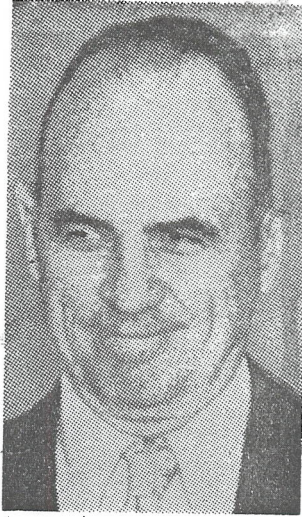
- Mitchell provided the impetus for the second Watergate break-in at which the arrests were made June 17. Mitchell, according to Liddy, was impressed by the photographed documents that resulted from the first Watergate break-in during which the phone bugs were planted on Memorial Day weekend, and "desired a second entry operation to do more photographic work" in Democratic National Committee headquarters.

- Mitchell, according to Liddy, also wanted information of a "blackmail nature" that supposedly was in the possession of Hank Greenspun, publisher of the Las Vegas Sun, for use against presidential candidate Senator Edmund Muskie (Dem.-Me). Plans were made, but never carried out, to break into Greenspun's office and photograph the alleged documents.

- Jeb Stuart Magruder, former deputy campaign director under Mitchell at the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, lied in his testimony at the Watergate trial in January when he said he had no advance knowledge of the Watergate bugging. McCord told the grand jury last month that Liddy told him Mitchell, Dean and Magruder all had advance knowledge.

### Pressure

In earlier testimony before the grand jury, McCord had said that unnamed offici-



UPI Telephoto

JAMES McCORD  
Assurances

s at the Committee for the Re-Election of the President had tried to pressure fellow Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt to say that the break-in and bugging had been a CIA operation. McCord, in his deposition, reiterated his earlier denial that the CIA was involved.

In his memo to the Select Committee, McCord said some of the Cuban defendants, had heard that Cuban money possibly was coming into the Democratic National Committee "and therefore he inferred some national interest in the operation." But, McCord said, he never heard any of the defendants say they thought they were working for the CIA.

Instead, he said, the other defendants referred to it as a "Mitchell operation."

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