

Senate Probers Lifting Lid on Huge Spy Ring

By Harry Kelly

Examiner Washington Correspondent

--From Page 1

WASHINGTON — The Senate Watergate committee is lifting the lid off an intelligence-espionage operation that investigators say was bigger than they had suspected and combined the operations of federal agencies with the Liddy-Hunt secret police unit under the label of national security, according to congressional sources.

The committee will bore in on to what extent government wiretap information found its way into the hands of the Nixon re-election campaign, the sources said.

"We already know of FBI wiretaps on reporters and White House aides," one Senate investigator told the Associated Press. "And we know about the Watergate taps. But there may have been 25 or 100 Watergates we don't know about yet that were carried out by the government and turned over to the Nixon re-election committee."

Mardian the Key

Investigators say the key to the investigation is Robert Mardian, former Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Justice Department's Internal Security Division which wiretapper James McCord Jr. testified supplied the Nixon campaign committee with secret intelligence information.

The intelligence operation, reportedly functioning as early as 1969, provided White House and campaign officials confidential information about Republicans as well as Democrats and arranged for paid-to-order demonstrations as well as wiretaps and other undercover activities, the investigators said.

Robert Reisner, an administrative assistant to Jeb S. Magruder, the campaign organization's second in command, has told investigators that a secret cash fund was kept in a committee safe for the hiring of demonstrators.

He said the demonstra-

tors, aimed at embarrassing Democrats, were ordered through Magruder by Charles Colson, then a presidential assistant, and his aide, Richard Howard.

It was Magruder, apparently, who instructed G. Gordon Liddy, one of the Watergate conspirators and formerly a Nixon committee general counsel, to line up a counter-show to the anti-war demonstration at the Capitol in May, 1972, at the time of J. Edgar Hoover's funeral.

The demonstrators were flown out of the Miami Cuban exile community, the investigators said, and tried to attack Daniel Ellsberg, a speaker at the demonstration, in order to create a small riot among the peace groups.

Mardian, who has been called to testify before the grand jury and the Senate committee, was the Justice Department contact with the White House "plumbers," the investigators said.

The "plumbers," organized around Watergate conspirators Liddy and E. Howard Hunt, originally gained notoriety in the burglary of Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office and efforts to check on the leaks of secret national security information to newsmen.

The anti-leak operation, the FBI disclosed, included wiretaps on the telephones of newsmen and government officials.

As chief of the Internal Security Section, Mardian had supervised the FBI division that installed and monitored the wiretaps; led the prosecution in the Pentagon papers case and was over-all commander of the special litigation section with grand juries investigating alleged radical activities.

Acting FBI Director William D. Ruckelshaus disclosed this week that it was Mardian who arranged to have transferred to the White House the records of FBI wiretaps on the newsmen and government officials after an FBI official suggested they could become embarrassing.

That FBI official, the in-

vestigators noted, was William Sullivan, assistant to the director and chief of the FBI's internal security and counter-intelligence operations.

Other FBI sources said Sullivan worked closely with Mardian, sometimes to the irritation of J. Edgar Hoover, who reportedly felt they were going behind his back and who later forced Sullivan into retirement.

Sullivan may be called to testify before the Senate committee, the investigator reported.

Committee Chairman Sam Ervin, (D-N.C.) said the committee has evidence "of the use of governmental instrumentalities in efforts to exercise political surveillance over candidates in the 1972 campaign.

Government sources said there was evidence to support this in secret documents former White House counsel, John W. Dean III turned over to the court and thus to the committee.

The report, bearing a top secret classification, is reportedly a document originating with an intelligence board, including FBI, CIA and national security agency representatives.

McCord testified Friday that he had received almost daily reports from Mardian's internal security division while he was security

chief for the Nixon campaign.

McCord said the information was provided by John Martin, chief of the analysis and evaluation section, and Martin's deputy, Joel Lisker. It contained government intelligence regarding political and nonpolitical individuals and groups that the men thought he "ought to be aware of," McCord said.

He said he put the information in memoranda that were distributed to "about six of the senior staff members" of the Nixon re-election campaign, including former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans, finance committee treasurer Hugh Sloan, finance committee counsel G. Gordon Liddy and administrative officer Robert C. Odle.

They were kept informed, McCord said, of "forthcoming demonstrations in the Washington area," a McGovern campaign committee's purported funding of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, a call "dealing with the bombing of the Pentagon" and unspecified other intelligence.

--Turn to Page 14, Col. 5