

Senate Watergate Hearing

-- Testimony Resumes

United Press

Washington

Copies of secret Nixon campaign "Gemstone" files on political bugging and espionage were directed to former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, a former campaign aide testified yesterday.

Robert A. Reisner, testifying at the sixth day of Senate Watergate hearings, said he had put the sensitive materials in a file folder being readied for a strategy meeting with Mitchell in the week or two before the June 17, 1972, bugging arrests of five men inside Democratic national headquarters.

Reisner's sworn testimony was the first public allegation that Mitchell — who was Mr. Nixon's campaign manager at the time — could have been privy to the espionage plans and perhaps received logs of conversations monitored on tapped telephones at the Democratic offices.

'DUTIES'

He said he had put the Gemstone material in Mitchell's file as part of his duties as administrative assistant to Jeb Stuart Magruder, Mitchell's deputy campaign manager.

"I was preparing Mr. Mitchell's files," Reisner said. "I was handed the document and I was asked to put them in Mr. Mitchell's file. Things that Mr. Magruder might want to take to his meetings with Mr. Mitchell were put into Mr. Mitchell's file."

Mitchell has admitted sitting in on meetings where bugging plans were discussed. But he has denied he ever approved them and denied he ever received bugging reports.

CALENDARS

The boyish-looking Reisner, now on the staff of the White House Office of Management and Budget, also produced appointment calendars indicating meetings

involving Magruder, Mitchell, White House counsel John W. Dean III and Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy — then finance counsel for the Nixon campaign — in January, February and March of last year.

It has been reported that the Watergate operation was planned at meetings during those months by these four men, getting final approval at a meeting in Key Biscayne, Fla., in March.

Reisner said his calendar showed Magruder went to Key Biscayne March 29-31, 1972, to meet with Mitchell.

Some time after he returned, he testified, Magru-

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der asked him to "call Liddy, tell him it's approved and that we need to get going in the next two weeks."

"I did that," he went on. "And Liddy said, 'I can't, it's going to be hard,' or words to that effect. He protested. I said he'd have to talk to Mr. Magruder about it because I didn't know what it was about."

SECOND

Reisner was the second witness yesterday to link Magruder to the Watergate plot. Earlier, Sally Jackson Harmony, Liddy's former secretary, told how she went to Magruder for approval of a bill for special Gemstone stationery on which she typed intelligence reports and logs of the taped telephone conversations.

She also said she had seen on Liddy's desk a stack of photographs — perhaps two dozen 8x10 inch glossy prints — of Democratic party documents. She said she didn't know where they came from or where they went.

A few hours later, Reisner said "some photographs" were included in the material Magruder had told him to put in the Mitchell file along

with the Gemstone documents. But, he said, "it was clear it was not for me to be looking at them" and he was not asked to describe the pictures.

The night of the Watergate arrests, he said, Magruder called him from California and asked him to go to the office and remove "some sensitive material" from his desk, including the Gemstone file. He said he did that and took the materials home for the weekend.

ENVELOPE

He identified a brown manila envelope, imprinted with the words "sensitive materials" in large red letters, handed him by the committee as identical to the one he took from Magruder's desk and hid.

When he was subpoenaed March 30 by the Senate committee — the first time he had been summoned for questioning by any investigators — Reisner said Magruder called him four times that day, worried about what he would say.

"He asked me to get together with him and I indicated I didn't think that was appropriate . . ." Reisner said. "He was extremely agitated; he wanted to know what I was doing."

SECRETARY

Mrs. Harmony said Liddy had told her he might be involved in "clandestine activities" but that she was not suspicious about the things she typed until after the Watergate raid.

After the Watergate arrests, she testified, Magruder authorized payment of a printer's bill for the "Gemstone" stationery she used to type summaries of wire-tapped conversations.

Liddy had been fired for refusing to answer FBI agents' questions about Watergate, so Mrs. Harmony said she gave the bill to Magruder because "I thought he would know more about it" than the committee's office manager.

Magruder signed an au-

thorization for payment, she said, and she destroyed the bill in a paper shredder on Magruder's orders.

"Gemstone" was Liddy's

code name for the wiretapping operation and other political espionage activities conducted last year in behalf of President Nixon's re-election.

"Mr. Magruder asked me to destroy it," she said. "He did not have to tell me why . . . because it had the word Gemstone on it and I was familiar with Gemstone and the way I had used it."

Mrs. Harmony said Magruder telephoned her this spring from the Commerce Department, where he subsequently resigned a post-election job, and told her he

had assured Mitchell he "would not have anything to worry about from your testimony."

She said she knew nothing to implicate Mitchell, who quit as Mr. Nixon's campaign director two weeks after the Watergate arrests. "I said I was not aware of any way I could implicate him," she said.

"Were you aware you were typing information obtained illegally?" she was asked.

"They were telephone conversations," Mrs. Harmony replied. "I didn't know the source."

"When did you first discover they were bugged?"

"When I read the newspaper on June 18."

The committee resumed its nationally televised hearings after unanimously rejecting a request by special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox to suspend them for three months. Chairman Sam J. Ervin (Dem.-N.C.) said the committee was "unwilling to share the fears" of Cox that a fair trial would be more likely after the hearings than before.



UPI Telephoto

NIXON CAMPAIGN AIDE ROBERT REISNER
He told committee about 'Gemstone' files



AP Wirephoto

LIDDY'S EX-SECRETARY, SALLY HARMONY
She was the first witness yesterday