

Democrats Seen Bugged In '72 Meet

NEW YORK, Oct. 4 (UPI) — State officials in Florida have evidence that the Democratic Party's headquarters at its national convention in Miami Beach last year was bugged by Republican saboteurs less than one month after the Watergate burglary was discovered, NBC News reported tonight.

The network quoted Richard Gerstein, Dade County state attorney, as saying the information about "secret listening devices" came from convicted Watergate conspirator James McCord. McCord has denied this, NBC said.

"The Florida investigators believe this operation was part of the espionage plan submitted by G. Gordon Liddy, later convicted as Watergate conspirator," NBC said.

In an interview broadcast on the "NBC Nightly News," Gerstein said: "Based on information we received during an interrogation of James McCord last summer, we learned that the Fountainebleau Hotel (the Democratic National Committee's headquarters in Miami Beach) had been bugged during the Democratic National Convention and possibly at other times. This bugging was the result of a meeting that took place at Key Biscayne on March 30, 1972, a meeting attended by former Attorney General John Mitchell and others, at which time the entire Watergate conspiracy was planned.

"But Mr. Cox' office has asked us to withhold prosecution and, for the time being, we are going along with their request," Gerstein said on NBC.