

MCCORD RETRACTS CAPITAL TV SHOW

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Had Taped Discussion on
Aspects of Surveillance

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By LES BROWN

An exclusive two-part conversation program with James W. McCord Jr., the convicted Watergate burglar, was withdrawn from broadcast by WRC-TV in Washington at Mr. McCord's request last week because his lawyers felt it might be in violation of an order by Judge John J. Sirica of the United States District Court.

Judge Sirica had restricted Watergate defendants from giving lectures or interviews on matters pertaining to Watergate until their cases were settled. Mr. McCord is on bail pending appeal of his conviction, which is scheduled to be argued before the United States Court of Appeals in Washington on June 14.

Sheila Weidenfeld, producer of "Take It From Here," a local 30-minute daily discussion on WRC-TV, said she was under the impression, when Mr. McCord agreed to participate on the program, that he had cleared with his lawyers and was satisfied that he

would not be violating Judge Sirica's ruling.

Mr. McCord was featured with Dusko Popov, British intelligence expert, in a taped discussion of various aspects of espionage and surveillance work. In the conversation, which was guided by Jim Peck, the programs' host, Mr. McCord talked about the Watergate operation and specifically what went wrong in the execution of the burglary, Miss Weidenfeld said.

"Although most of what he said was already in the public record, and there was no material that was new or newsworthy, he called after the taping to say he didn't want the program," she added.

Miss Weidenfeld said she could not explain why Mr. McCord had agreed to appear on the program in the first place and, although tempted to inquire why, decided it would be ungracious. Mr. McCord was to have been paid \$100 for the taped program, which Miss Weidenfeld noted was the minimum scale for guests on the station. Since the program was not broadcast, he was not paid.

Asked by phone why he took part in the program, Mr. McCord responded, "I don't want to discuss that" and hung up.

One of his lawyers William G. Ohlhausen, said he, had learned "after the fact" that Mr. McCord had taped the program and advised him not to let it be broadcast because it was probably in violation of Judge Sirica's order.