

2 Nixon Aides Deny Guilt; McCord Jailing Is Put Off

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (AP) —Former President Richard M. Nixon's tax lawyer and a document appraiser pleaded not guilty to charges that they illegally conspired to backdate a deed for \$576,000 worth of Mr. Nixon's pre-Presidential papers.

In another development, James W. McCord Jr., convicted more than two years ago of burglary, conspiracy and wire-tapping in the Watergate break-in, was granted three more weeks of freedom before beginning his one-to-five year sentence.

On the issue of Mr. Nixon's papers, a Federal indictment against Frank DeMarco Jr. of Los Angeles, the lawyer, and Ralph C. Newman of Chicago, the appraiser, said that the purpose of the conspiracy was to give Mr. Nixon a tax deduction to which he was not legally entitled.

Mr. DeMarco, 49 years old and Mr. Newman, 63, were arraigned before United States District Judge Oliver Gash.

With the defendants and their lawyers standing before him, Judge Gash said, "I understand you waive the reading of the indictment and wish to plead not guilty."

William McDaniels, Mr. Newman's attorney, and Charles McNellis, Mr. DeMarco's lawyer, both replied, "That's correct." Mr. DeMarco and Mr. Newman remained silent during the brief proceeding.

Judge Gash set March 21 for a hearing on legal motions, but set no trial date. They remain free under bail.

The McCord Delay

On the McCord matter, the 50-year-old former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency and director of security for Mr. Nixon's re-election committee, went to court today prepared to begin serving his sentence. The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia said earlier this week that he must start serving his term.

But Mr. McCord's attorney, William A. Mann, asked Federal District Judge George L. Bart Jr. for the three additional weeks on grounds that Mr. McCord still had legal actions pending in other courts.

Mr. McCord has asked the Supreme Court to overturn his conviction, and he has asked for a new trial on grounds that his original lawyer, Gerald Alch, failed to represent him adequately.

"I would urge the court to grant Mr. McCord three weeks to take care of these matters," Mr. Mann told Judge Hart.

The judge then gave Mr. McCord until noon of March 21 to surrender himself at the Federal prison institution in Allentown, Pa.

Mr. McCord will be the 15th person to go to prison as a result of the Watergate break-in and related offenses. Only four of those are still in prison. Seven others, including the recently convicted Watergate coverup defendants, are under sentence but have not been required to turn themselves in. Mr. McCord remains free under \$5,000 bond.

McCord was arrested with four Miami men inside the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee June 17, 1972.

He has asked for an evidentiary hearing in connection with his motion for a new trial. Asked what new things might come out at that hearing, Mr. McCord told newsmen:

"All of the details of how my lawyer was working with John Mitchell while I was on trial to try to silence me, to try to bribe me and try to induce me to plead guilty."

Without the hearing, Mr. McCord said, he could not be assured that he had been fairly treated.

"I think the American people are entitled to hear what comes out in that evidentiary hearing," he said. "I think they are being denied certain truths."