

MCCORD'S MOTIVE PUZZLES LAWYER

Alch Calls Accusation Part of Bid for a New Trial

By MARJORIE HUNTER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 13 — Gerald Alch suggested today that his one-time client, James W. McCord Jr., may have been seeking to lay groundwork for a new trial by accusing him of trying to involve the Central Intelligence Agency in covering up the Watergate affair.

"That's only conjecture on my part," he said, "but it's the only way I can figure out why he's making allegations against me."

Mr. McCord, one of the convicted Watergate conspirators, has said repeatedly that Mr. Alch, at that time his lawyer, proposed last December that the C.I.A. be used as a cover for the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate complex the previous June 17.

Mr. Alch denied this, in an appearance before the special Senate Watergate investigating committee in May, and denied it again today as he emerged from three hours of questioning by a House Armed Services subcommittee also investigating the agency's involvement in the Watergate affair.

Wrote to Judge

Mr. Alch recalled that Mr. McCord wrote a letter to Chief Judge John J. Sirica in March, saying that he and others involved in the Watergate affair had been under "political pres-

sure to plead guilty and remain silent."

Mr. Alch said further that Mr. McCord, in that letter, had told the judge that he had not advised his attorneys of this political pressure "as a matter of protection for them."

Noting that Mr. McCord has now moved for a new trial, Mr. Alch said: "My conjecture is that he has to overcome the barrier presented to him as to why he sat on the knowledge that he now claims to have had throughout the [first] trial."

"It could be that, by turning on me and implying that I was in some way a means of his not revealing this during the trial—that that may aid in his motion for a new trial."

Got Another Lawyer

Mr. McCord, subsequent to sending the letter to Judge Sirica, dismissed Mr. Alch as his attorney and acquired a new one.

Mr. Alch appeared relaxed as he emerged from the surprisingly long period of questioning by the House subcommittee.

Asked if his law practice had suffered from the dispute with Mr. McCord, he grinned and said, "It hasn't done me much harm so far, but I find myself considering keeping detailed memos of conversations with all my clients."

Representative Lucien N. Nedzi of Michigan, chairman of the House subcommittee, said later that while he was not prepared to say "that anyone is lying, I might say that the record is hopelessly irreconcilable at this point."

"It's still a mystery to me," he said.

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