

Bugging Trial Moved Behind Closed Doors

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The trial of six men accused of burglarizing Democratic party headquarters was moved to a closed courtroom today amid speculation there may be more guilty pleas. U. S. District Judge John Sirica gave no reason for the surprise shift to behind closed doors.

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Federal prosecutors asked the U. S. Court of Appeals today to permit them to use certain "bugged" conversations of high Democratic officials

against six men charged with burglarizing and bugging Democratic national headquarters.

Judge John J. Sirica recessed the U. S. District Court trial of the six while the prosecution tried to get Sirica's earlier ruling against admission of the conversations overturned in the higher court. The conversations purportedly were overheard by the defendants on eavesdropping equipment.

Defense attorneys have argued against use of the actual content of the conversa-

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tions, contending that the mere fact the conversations were intercepted is sufficient for the prosecution.

During the recess, one of the four defense attorneys, Henry B. Rothblatt, indicated there was disagreement between him and the four defendants he represents over handling of the case. There are "negative things in the air," Rothblatt said.

Lawyers for the Democratic National Committee who intervened on behalf of the defense in the issue asked the court to uphold Sirica's motion to deny use of the conversations.

Democratic coun R. SEJ
DISCLOSING THE CONVER-
SATIONS. MANY OF WHICH
WERE PERSONAL IN NA-
TURE, WOULD BE AN UN-
CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLA-
TION OF
PRIVACY. "Gossip is the
poetry of politics," said
Charles W. Morgan, another
lawyer for the Democrats.
"We want these folks (wit-
nesses), who would testify to
the conversations, quieted and
shut up."

But government lawyers argued before the three-judge panel that they might need to reveal "relevant" material from the conversations to prove their case.

The list of defendants in the politically sensitive "Watergate" trial in U. S. District Court shrank from seven to six Thursday when former White House consultant E. Howard Hunt Jr. pleaded guilty to all charges filed against him in the break-in and bugging of Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex here June 17.

Hunt, a 20-year CIA veteran, admitted charges of conspiracy, burglary and illegal wire-tapping.

Glum and haggard as he posted bond, he told reporters that charges he helped run a spy squad financed by \$235,000 of President Nixon's campaign funds were "substantially correct" but added that "anything I may have done, I did for what I believed was in the best interest of the country."

He said he would tell a grand jury later that he had no "personal knowledge" that high administration officials were