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Weicker Says Plot Leader Is Still on Nixon's Staff

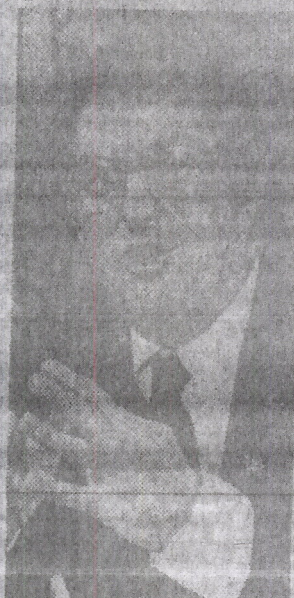
By CHRISTOPHER LYDON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 29—Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., a Connecticut Republican, said today that the unidentified man behind the Watergate plot was still on the White House staff, being protected—and threatened—by selective use of secret testimony to Senate investigators.

Turning conventional analysis upside down, Mr. Weicker said in a crowded news conference that recent charges implicating prior knowledge of the Watergate bugging to President Nixon's palace guard may actually serve to defend the very men they seem to accuse.

Mr. Weicker confirmed that James W. McCord Jr., the convicted conspirator, had used hearsay in his closed session with six Senators yesterday to implicate in the planning of the Watergate plot former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, Jeb Stuart Magruder, deputy manager of the Nixon re-election campaign; Charles W. Colson, former White House counsel, and John W. Dean 3d, the President's lawyer.

The charges against those men represent only "one-tenth"



The New York Times
Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. at the news session on Watergate case yesterday.

of McCord's testimony, Mr. Weicker said.

But the more defect in the charges, in Mr. Weicker's view, is that they all hang, according to McCord's own testimony, on

...don't say...
...conspirator...
...Liddy...
...Watergate...
...Nixon...
...Administration...
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...attempt...
...G. Gordon Liddy...
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...end...
...operation...

...Nixon Administration...
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...Liddy...
...Watergate...
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