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Haldeman Tied To Watergate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. told Senate investigators that presidential chief-of-staff H.R. Haldeman "had to be aware" of plans to break into the national Democratic headquarters, a source close to the investigation said Friday.

The special Senate committee probing the case issued subpoenas to three lower-echelon Republican campaign workers to check McCord's story, which also is reported to implicate other top White House aides.

The White House continued to deny that any member of President Nixon's staff even knew about the crime in advance and said any employe summoned before a federal grand jury would appear and testify.

Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler also said the White House is "ready to work out a procedure" that would permit

staff members to answer Senate investigators' questions as long as presidential aides don't have to appear at formal committee meetings.

Chief U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica had been scheduled to pronounce sentence Friday on McCord for his part in the Watergate conspiracy.

But the judge postponed sentencing until June 15 to give McCord time to complete his Senate testimony and to tell a federal grand jury what he knows about the case.

Sirica also ordered G. Gordon Liddy, described as the organizer of the conspiracy, to testify before the grand jury and granted him immunity from prosecution for anything he might say, thus stripping him of the right to take the Fifth Amendment.

Liddy, whose lawyer opposed compelling him to testify, was

sentenced a week ago to serve a minimum of six years, eight months in prison for his Watergate activities.

For the last three days, the grand jury has been hearing the testimony of another of the Watergate conspirators, E. Howard Hunt Jr.

Government attorneys said they would proceed now with Liddy and then McCord as the secret proceedings continue.

The source reporting McCord's identification of Haldeman also said the Senate probe has discovered that top White House people with "a history of being involved in similar activities in past elections" were involved again "in 1972 espionage and bugging activities."

"We're talking about ... people working around Nixon from 1962 on," the source said.

Magruder, once a member of Nixon's staff, left to work in the President's re-election campaign and was among those implicated by McCord, according to Sen. Howard H. Baker, Jr., R-Tenn.