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GOP Aides Listed as 'Bug' Witnesses

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The chief prosecutor in the Watergate bugging case yesterday listed six present or former aides to President Nixon or the Committee for the Re-election of the President among 60 prospective witnesses that the government might call to testify.

The six, named in court as the trial opened, include Jeb S. Magruder, former deputy director to the Nixon re-election campaign and now executive director to the President's inaugural committee; Bruce Kehrli, an aide to White House chief of staff H.R. (Bob) Haldeman, and Fred F. Fielding, and assistant to Presidential counsel John W. Dean III.

The other three are Hugh W. Sloan Jr., the former Nixon re-election committee treasurer; Herbert L. Porter, the former Nixon committee scheduling director; and Robert C. Odle, former personnel director for the committee.

The four former officials at the re-election committee—Magruder, Porter, Sloan, and Odle—figured in published reports as having information about an alleged campaign of spying and disruption directed against the Democrats.

Magruder and Porter both received in excess of \$50,000 each from a special campaign

fund used in part to finance the spying and disruption, according to sources close to the Watergate investigation. Magruder has denied receiving any money from the fund, and Porter has not commented.

As committee treasurer, Sloan reportedly made payments from the fund, which was kept in the safe of Chief fund raiser Maurice H. Stans. Sloan resigned July 14 after he learned that the money may have been used to finance the alleged spying campaign.

According to one account, Odle received memos of the wiretapped conversations made at the Democrats' Watergate headquarters. Odle has denied receiving such memos.

As members of the Nixon Committee high command, the four Nixon re-election committee officials may have dealt with at least two of the defendants in the bugging case, G. Gordon Liddy, the former finance counsel of the Nixon campaign, and James W. McCord Jr., security coordinator of the committee.

Odle, according to the committee, hired McCord. Sloan was responsible for all financial transactions at the committee, including paying the salaries of those two defendants. Magruder was in charge of the day-to-day operation of the campaign committee. Porter coordinated the speaking

appearances of President Nixon's campaign surrogates.

Chief U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica, who is presiding over the Watergate trial, has said he wants the trial to explore fully the motives, sponsorship and financing of the alleged bugging.

But the chief prosecutor, Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert, has indicated that the trial will focus on the alleged bugging and not other incidents of spying and sabotage. Silbert said in several pretrial hearings that the evidence and testimony will allow the jury to only draw "inferences" about the broader questions.

The prosecution witness list as originally drafted included the name of California attorney Donald H. Segretti, who according to numerous accounts was hired and paid to disrupt the campaigns of various Democratic presidential candidates.

Segretti was a witness before the federal grand jury that investigated the Watergate bugging, but his name was not read as a prosecution witness by Silbert in court yesterday.

According to a prosecution pretrial motion, Kehrli, secretary of the White House staff and a key assistant to Haldeman, was the first person to search the Executive Office Building office of former White House consultant E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the seven Watergate defendants.

According to the motion, which attempted to show that the search was legal, Hunt's office was searched on June 19, two days after the Watergate break-in.

The court records also state that Fielding, the principal assistant to Presidential counsel Dean, removed items from a safe in Hunt's office with Kehrli on June 20.

According to the court records, Hunt's safe contained a black attache case that held "a large amount of electronic equipment, as well as written matter, pamphlets and instruction booklets relating to the electronic equipment."

This search was ordered by Dean, and the items found were packed in cartons and sent to the FBI, according to investigators. The court papers state that, "at the time Mr. Dean issued these orders (for the search), he had not yet received any inquiries from law enforcement officials regarding Hunt."

Among the new names the witness list brings into the case are those of Los Angeles attorney Morton B. Jackson, his secretary, Esther C. Kirby, and a former receptionist at his law firm, Mary Denburg.

In an interview with The Washington Post last month, Jackson said that he has acted as attorney for Hunt and Liddy. He declined to discuss

the nature of that legal relationship.

Sources close to the Watergate investigation said that Miss Denburg told the FBI that Jackson was involved in a complicated corporate arrangement that was used to pay for services provided to the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

In a later interview, Jackson flatly denied this as "totally untrue," saying that "the sole source is Miss Denburg ... she was not in a position to know and had no access to such information."

Sources say that FBI reports state that Hunt stayed with Jackson in Los Angeles for about a week after June 17 when Hunt dropped from sight and was being sought by 150 FBI agents.

Jackson declined to discuss this or a trip he took to Mexico City during Hunt's reported visit in June.

The witness list also includes:

About 15 D.C. policemen and FBI agents who investigated the case. Included are the D.C. policemen who arrested five of the defendants in the Watergate on June 17.

- Alfred C. Baldwin III, the former FBI agent who has said that he participated in the alleged bugging and transcribed hundreds of wiretapped telephone conversations.

- Washington attorney M. Douglas Caddy, the first attorney for the five suspects. Caddy was put in jail briefly last summer when he refused to testify before the Watergate grand jury. He later testified and is reportedly going to be both a prosecution and defense witness at the trial.

- R. Spencer Oliver, the Democratic party official whose phone at the Watergate was allegedly tapped.

- Kathleen Chenow, a former White House secretary, who said that there was a special private telephone in her office that was used almost exclusively by former White House consultant Hunt to talk with defendant Barker from August, 1971, to March 1972. The bill for the phone was sent to her private residence in Alexandria but paid by the White House.

- Fourteen others who are either employees of the Democratic party, the Watergate office building, or a business that employed or is associated with one of the seven defendants.

- Sixteen others were named by the prosecutor. Their connection with the case could not be learned yesterday.

The 60 witnesses listed by Silbert are those that will be used in presenting the government's case. Additional witness could be added by the prosecution in rebuttal after the defense presents its case.