

Demo HQ 'Bugging' Try -- Nixon Aide Is a Suspect

U.P. & A.P.

Washington

Five men were arrested early Saturday in an attempt to bug the Democratic National Headquarters here. One of the suspects, former CIA agent James McCord Jr., is the salaried security coordinator for President Nixon's re-election committee.

McCord also holds a separate contract to provide security services to the Republican National Committee, GOP National Chairman Robert Dole said yesterday.

Former attorney General John N. Mitchell, head of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, said yesterday that McCord "is the proprietor of a private security agency who was employed by our committee months ago to assist with the installation of our security system."

McCord, 53, said he had been an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency until two years ago. He and four other men were arrested Saturday at the Democratic headquarters here and charged with second degree burglary.

'PLOT'

The five men were arrested during what authorities described as an elaborate plot to bug the offices of the Democratic party's national headquarters.

Authorities investigating the case were not aware of the link to the Nixon committee until the Associated Press found McCord listed in a voluminous filing required under the new campaign finance act.

From Los Angeles, Mitchell said in his statement:

"There is no place in our campaign or in the electoral process for this type of ac-



AP Wirephoto

JAMES W. McCORD JR.
One of five arrested

tivity" and we will not permit nor condone it."

O'BRIEN

Democratic National Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien called, in a statement, for an immediate FBI investigation of what he termed "the ugliest questions about the integrity of the political process that I have encountered in a quarter-century of political activity."

Senator Dole (Rep-Kan.) issued a statement saying McCord had worked for his group, too. But, he said, if McCord was involved in the breakin, the GOP committee will sever relationships with the McCord firm.

He said McCord's "actions were not on our behalf nor with our consent."

According to police, the five men all were wearing rubber surgical gloves and had electronic equipment with them when they were

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surprised by plainclothes police who had been alerted by a security guard.

Four of the men, all from Miami, were held on \$50,000

bail and McCord was held on \$30,000 bail. All were charged with felonious burglary and with possession of implements of crime. They were listed as Frank Sturgis, Eugenio R. Martinez, Virgilio R. Gonzales and Bernard L. Barker.

McCord was first arrested under the name of Edward Martin but, during processing at the District of Columbia public bail agency, he said McCord was his proper name. He was so listed in the Court Record.

McCord has been working at the Nixon committee offices for at least four months, one source said. The committee's records, which are required to show payments only as far back as April 7, show McCord was paid his \$1209 monthly salary in April and May.

Committee expenses also list a \$1091 payment to McCord Associates Inc. of 414 Hungerford drive, Rockville, Md., for security service, a \$915 payment to the same firm for equipment and purchase and rental, a \$303 payment to James McCord at the Hungerford address for television cable and an \$330 payment to McCord at another address for television equipment reimbursement.

ALERT

The security guard who tipped police first noticed that a door connecting a stairwell to a basement garage had been taped so it would not lock. The Democratic headquarters are in an office section of the posh Watergate hotel and apartment complex in Washington.

The guard, Frank Wills, removed the tape but ten minutes later he saw it had been replaced, so he called police. Three officers said they found other taped locks and then found the door to

the sixth floor Democratic offices had been jimmied.

Police began searching the 29-office party complex. When they entered one secretary's office, one of the suspects jumped from behind a desk, thrust his hands up and yelled "don't shoot," police said.

Police said they found \$2300, mostly in consecutive-ly numbered \$100 bills, on the suspects and found another \$4200 from the same sequence in two Watergate hotel rooms rented by the suspects.

BACKGROUND

Prosecutors said Saturday that Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini, had served in the Cuban military army intelligence in 1958, is agent for a Havana salvage agency and has a family in Miami. FBI records showed he was once charged with a gun violation in Miami.

Prosecutors said Martinez violated immigration laws in 1958 by flying in a private plane to Cuba.

Douglas Caddy, an attorney for the men, said Barker's wife called him early Saturday and said "that her husband told her to call me if he hadn't called her by 3 a.m.; that it might mean he was in trouble."

MITCHELL

Mitchell, in his statement relayed through a spokesman for the committee, said McCord "has, as we understand it, a number of business clients and interests and we have no knowledge of those relationships."

Mitchell said "at this time we are experiencing our own security problems at the Committee for the Re-election of the President. Our problems are not as dramatic as the events of Saturday morning — but nonetheless of a serious nature to us.

"We do not know as of this moment whether our security problems are related to the events of Saturday morning at the Democratic headquarters or not."

He did not elaborate on the nature of the security problems at his headquarters.