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Demos Sue Over Party HQ Break-In

Associated Press

Washington

Calling the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters a "blatant act of political espionage," party chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien sued the Committee for the Re-election of the President and others for \$1 million yesterday.

The civil suit, filed in United States District Court, contends that the break-in Saturday was an invasion of privacy and that the Democrats' civil rights were violated.

O'Brien also said the alleged attempts to plant bugging devices during the break-in was in violation of laws against wiretapping.

Five men, including James W. McCord, chief security officer for both the Republican National Committee and the committee in charge of President Nixon's re-election campaign, were arrested Saturday at the Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate apartment-hotel complex. Both GOP committees announced Monday that McCord has been fired.

O'Brien said the Committee to Re-elect the President is requested in the complaint to open its records and divulge its exact ties with McCord. It wants listed all payments made to McCord and reasons for them.

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, chairman of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, said the lawsuit "represents another example of sheer demagoguery on the part of Mr. O'Brien." Mitchell called the legal action a political stunt.

O'Brien said as far as he

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is concerned the break-in had a "clear line of direction to the Committee for the Re-election of the President" and there is a "developing clear line to the White House."

However he declined to say that the Republican National Committee was directly behind the break-in. He said the court suit would determine the facts.

Names

The Washington Post reported yesterday that a consultant to White House special counsel Charles W. Colson is listed in the address books of two of the five men arrested. The newspaper reported that federal sources said the address books contain the name and home number of Howard E. Hunt, the consultant, with the notations: "W. House" and "W.H."

A White House official said Hunt last worked for the White House in March 29, for a regular daily consultant fee. The Post said Hunt worked for the Central Intelligence Agency from 1949 to 1970.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said Hunt's role was primarily consulting in the field of narcotics activities, relating to the flow of drugs into this country.

"I talked with Colson after reading the Washington Post

story," said Ziegler. "He made it quite clear to me that he is in no way involved."

PRESIDENT

Ziegler said the President has "read with interest -- as everyone has -- about this case," but added:

"This is something the President will not get personally involved in."

Ziegler said the President has not talked with Mitchell about it.

Asked about reports that Hunt made a trip to Miami at Colson's request two weeks ago, Ziegler commented: "I don't know

where Mr. Hunt has been. He has not been in a consulting role with the White House for months."

SUIT

Named in the lawsuit beside McCord and McCord Associate Inc., a Maryland security firm, and the Committee to Re-elect the President are the four other individuals charged with the break-in.

They are named in the suit as Bernard Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez, Frank Sturgis and Virgilio R. Gonzales.

The suit asks that \$100,000 in compensatory damages be made to the Democratic National Committee's offices in the Watergate and to cover other expenses the party incurred because of the break-in. It asks for \$900,000 in punitive damages.