

# McCord Talking-- On Lecture Tour

## Springfield, Ill.

Convicted Watergate conspirator James McCord is making a lecture tour to pay off legal fees and to tell the public the Watergate story "first hand."

"I've got an obligation to the public," McCord told a news conference at Sangamon State College. "I think if the public wants to hear the story they ought to hear it first hand."

The school's student association paid McCord \$2000 for his appearance, which included informal talks and a speech in the university cafeteria.

McCord told newsmen part of the reason for the tour was he needed money.

"My lawyers' fees are running between \$70,000 and \$100,000," McCord said. He added he has given about 20 speeches so far and has been asked to appear at about 40 colleges and universities.

## MONEY

He declined to say how much money he has made from the lectures.

"You'll have to ask my booking agent. It isn't very much," he said.

McCord, 54, is a former CIA agent who was serving as security coordinator for the Nixon re-election committee when he and four other men were arrested last year inside the Democratic National Committee's head-

quarters in the Watergate office building.

He was convicted January 30 on eight counts of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping but has not yet been sentenced.

## QUESTIONS

After the news conference, McCord answered questions before a group of about 150 students in a university hall.

He told the group Watergate may have had a beneficial effect on the nation.

"Many communities are looking around their own back yards to see if they have a mini-Watergate developing," he said.

McCord wrote to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica on March 21 offering to tell what he knew about the Watergate break-in and coverup. His revelations have played a major role in the case.

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