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Secret Service Link to Break-in at Demo HQ

WASHINGTON — (AP) — James W. McCord Jr., a former CIA agent seized during a weekend break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters, was hired as a Republican security coordinator on the recommendation of a ranking Secret Service agent, sources said today.

The sources identified the agent as Al Wong, head of the Secret Service's Technical Security Division.

Both Wong and an official spokesman for the Secret Service declined to confirm or deny that Wong knew McCord or recommended him to the Republican National Committee or to President Nixon's campaign committee, the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

McCord was on the payroll of the Nixon Committee, a separate entity from the GOP National Committee, when he and four other men identified as having ties to Miami's Cuban exile community were seized inside Democratic headquarters Saturday night.

The official Secret Service spokesman refused to provide any background information on Wong or say how long he has been with the service.

The spokesman, however, said in response to a question that there is no record that McCord ever worked

—Turn to Page 14, Col. 1

part- or full-time for the Secret Service.

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, chairman of the Committee for Re-election of the President, said in a statement that the five men were "not operating either on our behalf or with our consent."

The Republican National Committee issued a virtually identical denial of any involvement.

The White House refused comment and referred newsmen to the campaign committee.

But Democratic National Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien said in New Orleans today he would confer with the party's chief counsel on the possibility of bringing court action.

O'Brien, who called the incident an act of "political espionage," told a news conference "I thought this administration was a law and order administration."

Nixon Report

All the statements came after the Associated Press found the name of McCord listed in campaign spending reports filed by the Nixon committee June 10.

The reports listed McCord as receiving a salary and other expenses for April and May as "security coordinator" for Nixon's main campaign committee. The new campaign finance act does not require itemization of expenses prior to April 7. Expense reports for June will not be due until September.

McCord, whose home address was listed in his arrest file and in the committee reports as 7 Winder Court in nearby Rockville, Md., was being held in lieu of \$30,000 bail, charged with attempted burglary.

The other four, all of whom gave Miami addresses, also were charged with attempted burglary. They were held on \$50,000 bail each.

When seized by plainclothes policemen, who were called by a private security guard, the men were wearing rubber surgical gloves and were armed with expensive electronic and photographic equipment, plus what police described as elaborate burglar kits.

Some \$6500 in new bills, mostly of \$100 denomination and consecutively numbered, also was found on the men

and in two rooms they had taken the day before at the plush Watergate Hotel, next door to the Democratic headquarters.

McCord, 53, reportedly retired two years ago as chief of security at the Central Intelligence Agency's nearby Langley, Va., headquarters.

He since has operated a private security agency out of a small office at 414 Hungerford Drive, Rockville.

Mitchell, who was in Los Angeles, said in his statement 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.

"He has, as we understand it, a number of business clients and interests and we have no knowledge of those relationships.

"We want to emphasize that this man and the other people involved were not operating either in our behalf or with our consent."

Mitchell said the Committee for Re-election of the President was having its own security problems at the \$20,000-a-month suite of offices it occupies a block from the White House but did not elaborate.

Police said they had not been asked to investigate any security problems of GOP committee headquarters.

Despite Mitchell's reference to McCord's employment "months ago," the committee's financial report filed with the General Accounting Office June 10 lists salary payments in April and May of \$1209 each to McCord.

It also shows four other payments for various expenses to James McCord or McCord Associates of the 414 Hungerford Drive address during the same period. The most recent was \$303.58 for a "TV cable" on May 25.

Sen. Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.), chairman of the Republican National Committee, disclosed in a statement that McCord also has done some work for that group.

But, said Dole, "his actions were not on our behalf, nor with our consent. If our understanding of the facts is accurate we will of course discontinue our relationship with the firm."

The four Miami men were listed as Frank Sturgis, Eugenio R. Martinez, Virgilio R. Gonzales and Bernard L. Barker, all of whom also are known under other names.

Police were called to the Democrats' offices in the wee hours Saturday morning after a security guard noticed that a door leading from a basement garage in the Watergate complex of offices, hotel rooms and apartments had been taped so it would not lock.

Plainclothes officers followed a trail of taped locks to the sixth-floor party headquarters.

When they entered a secretary's office, one of the five men jumped from behind a desk, threw his hands into the air and yelled, "don't shoot."

GOP Security

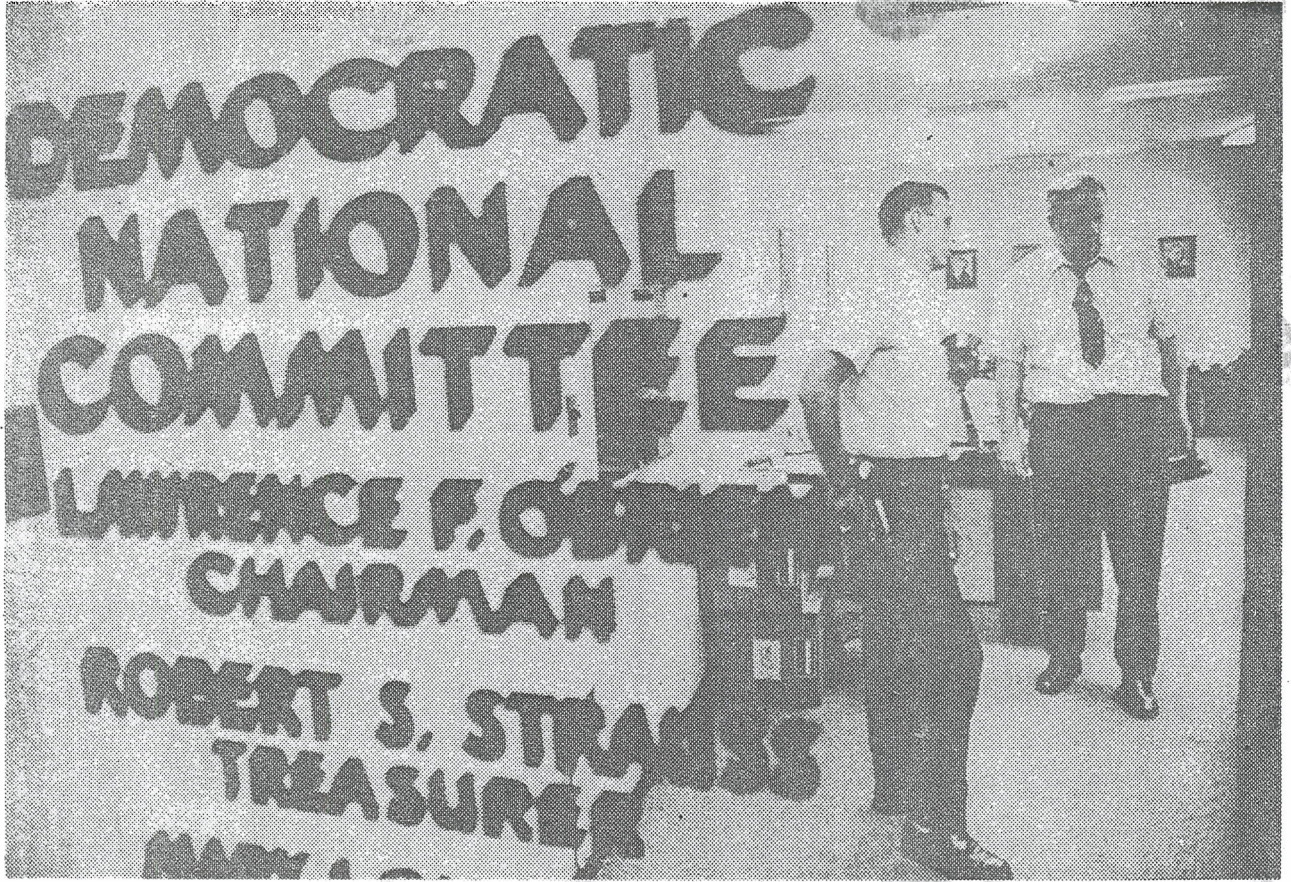
The security system McCord installed for the Committee to Re-elect the President reportedly includes electronically controlled doors, a massive paper shredding machine of the kind used in intelligence and diplomatic agencies to make confetti of sensitive correspondence, identifying lapel pins for staffers moving around the offices, so no stray political spies can sneak in, and presumably electronic sweeps to guard against wiretaps and electronic listening devices.

When the Nixon Campaign Committee spread out to include all or parts of half a dozen floors at the First National Bank building, the committee put its own security men behind a desk in the lobby to keep an eye on comings and goings.

Martha Mitchell, the former attorney general's wife who makes appearances on behalf of the Nixon campaign, has separate offices on the 11th floor of the headquarters.

For a while, according to neighbors, a closed screen television camera was set up to scan the hallway outside Mrs. Mitchell's offices until complaints from near-

by offices against having their visitors on camera caused it to be removed.



Police and telephone men check out the invaded Democratic headquarters in Washington

—AP Photo