

My Phone Was Bugged

--O'Brien

SF Examiner

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Lawrence O'Brien said today his telephone was tapped for several weeks when he was Democratic national chairman.

In addition, he said, an unsuccessful attempt was made to bug the pre-convention campaign headquarters of Sen. George McGovern.

O'Brien, now national chairman of McGovern's campaign as Democratic presidential nominee, told a news conference the five men arrested June 17 at party headquarters in the Watergate Office Building were in fact trying to repair a defect in the tap on his line and install new listening equipment.

At Least Two

He said at least two telephones were tapped at Democratic headquarters, his and that of Spencer Oliver, liaison man with Democratic state chairmen.

O'Brien said an attempt was made to bug the Capitol Hill campaign headquarters of the McGovern organization May 27, but was abandoned at 3 a.m. because the presence of passersby pre-

—Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

—From Page 1

vented the men involved from entering the offices at 410 C St. in Southeast Washington.

O'Brien said conversations on his office telephone were monitored by eavesdroppers in a room on the seventh floor of the Howard Johnson Hotel, across the street from the Watergate, and transcribed in summary form.

Source Secret

He did not disclose the

sources of the information on which he based his assertions but said they were unimpeachable. He declined to elaborate.

Two of the five men seized have been linked to the Republicans' Committee to Re-elect the President, although top GOP officials have denied the involvement.

O'Brien has brought a million-dollar lawsuit against the five men and top Nixon re-election officials.

O'Brien said his attorneys asked the Justice Department to provide all information it had gathered so far, but the Justice Department had refused.

Justice Lagging

"It becomes clearer by the day a most serious crime has been committed," O'Brien said.

He said that there had been the "most appalling footdragging" on the part of Attorney General Richard Kleindienst.

He said the attorney general continues to treat the case "as some kind of a joke."

Treated Like Joke

O'Brien also released a list of 17 people from whom his attorneys plan to seek depositions over a three-week period beginning Monday.

The first witness is to be Hugh W. Sloan Jr., former treasurer of the President's re-election committee who resigned several weeks ago.

Sloan reportedly handled a \$25,000 check, which has been traced from a Nixon campaign contributor, to the Miami bank of one of the five men charged in the headquarters breakin.

Handled Check

Also being called to give depositions are Mrs. James W. McCord, wife and bookkeeper of the former security official for the re-election committee, who was one of the five men seized.

Several top committee and

White House officials and Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), Republican national chairman, were also asked for depositions.