

McGovern Was Target

O'Brien Claims Bugging Try

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some of the men accused of breaking into the Democratic national headquarters also staged an abortive attempt to bug George McGovern's presidential campaign headquarters, says McGovern's campaign director, Lawrence F. O'Brien.

O'Brien said passersby scared off the men as they assembled at 3 a.m. May 27 outside McGovern's former Capitol Hill headquarters.

Although McGovern was not nominated as the Democratic candidate until July 12, he was then the frontrunner.

Citing "unimpeachable authority" as his source, O'Brien said Thursday he also had learned that two telephones at Democratic National Committee headquarters, including his own, were tapped for several weeks prior to the June 17 break-in at party headquarters in the downtown Watergate Hotel complex.

O'Brien was party chairman at the time.

Five men, including two with close ties to the Commit-

tee for the Re-Election of President Nixon, were arrested and elaborate eavesdropping and photographic equipment seized inside the offices.

In New York, Clark MacGregor, chairman of the Nixon reelection effort, said the men involved in the break-in thought that they were doing the party a favor. He said that, instead, they had embarrassed the GOP and its leaders. MacGregor said the break-in was "a wholly unauthorized activity ... a bizarre, stupid, idiotic, absolutely unnecessary enterprise."

And Republican National Committee Chairman Robert Dole said O'Brien's statements were an effort to divert public attention from what he called "strong evidence of illegality in the McGovern campaign fund-raising operation."

Dole also said he had no knowledge of the break-in.

O'Brien has filed a \$1 million civil suit against the five suspects.

O'Brien said the June 17 break-in was to repair a faulty phone tap and to implant a bugging device near his office.