

Watergate Bugging Motives Still Mystery, Says U.S. Aide

WATERGATE From Al-
 though the "fall doors will close" be-
 hind the seven men now
 charged with the break-in be-
 fore they even reveal the
 details of the affair,
 when public and press au-
 thorities for the regional in-
 vestigations were barred from
 most of the meetings held
 in the past week sessions and
 hearings for the regional in-
 vestigations. Peterson today con-
 firmed reports about the Wat-
 ergate case.
 They contrasted with the
 earlier public statements of
 others. When administration of-
 ficials said they said either
 that the indictment returned
 10 days ago in Washington re-
 vealed the full Watergate story
 or that further significant de-
 tails would come out during the
 trial.
 Peterson, a career Justice
 Department lawyer who now
 holds a political appointment
 as assistant attorney general,
 reiterated today his confidence
 that the FBI and grand jury
 investigations of the Water-
 gate incident had been thor-
 ough and left no stones un-
 turned.
 Echoing the statements of
 Attorney General Richard G.
 Kleindienst, he said that criti-
 cism of the Watergate investi-
 gation by Democratic presi-
 dential nominee George Mc-
 Govern and others is politi-
 cally motivated.
 He conceded, however, that
 the indictment in the case
 might just as well have been
 returned earlier, because the
 last six weeks of the investi-
 gation had provided nothing
 new. Among seven men named
 in the indictment are two for-
 mer White House aides—E.
 Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gor-
 don Liddy—who subsequently
 worked for the Committee for
 the Re-election of the Pres-

ident - and James W.
 McCord,
 former security chief for the
 President's re-election commit-
 tee.
 During the final stages of
 the probe, Peterson said the
 government found itself fol-
 lowing false leads.
 The Watergate controversy
 was hardly mentioned, pub-
 licly or privately, during the
 two-day annual conference of
 U.S. attorneys, all but a few of
 them political appointees with
 impeccable Republican cre-
 dentials.
 When it did come up in the
 seminars, it was usually in a
 joking way or in the form of
 technical questions by the fed-
 eral prosecutors about the in-
 vestigation.
 Many of the U.S. attorneys,
 talking with their supervisors
 from Washington and with re-
 porters, confirmed the wide-
 spread impression that the
 Watergate affair has not
 caught on as an election-year
 issue in their home states.
 As one southerner put it,
 "Back home, most people ex-
 pect both parties to do this
 spying on each other. The
 only thing that interests them
 is why these people were stu-
 pid enough to get caught."
 Kleindienst and most of his
 deputies and staff returned to
 Washington today in the same
 Air Force jet that brought
 them here Thursday for the
 first such annual conference
 of U.S. attorneys to be held
 outside Washington.
 The Attorney General spent
 much of his time here in pri-
 vate sessions with regional
 prosecutors handling sensitive
 cases or complaining of a lack
 of support in their work from
 other government agencies.
 In the meantime, the U.S.
 attorneys were briefed on the
 latest Justice Department
 wiretap disclosure policies,
 ambitious new plans for com-
 bating drug abuse, and law-
 suits against violators of the

Among the policies urged on
 the U.S. attorneys were:
 • An intensive effort with
 the cooperation of local au-
 thorities across the country, to
 combat airplane hijacking
 with the presence of "someone
 in uniform" at all 331 domes-
 tic airports whenever a com-
 mercial airliner is scheduled
 to take off.
 • A new push to persuade
 federal judges to send income
 tax evaders and other persons
 convicted of so-called white-
 collar crimes to jail at least
 for a short period of time.
 Assistant Attorney General
 Scott P. Crampton, chief of
 the Justice Department's tax
 division, told the prosecutors
 that only through jail sen-
 tences could the federal gov-
 ernment hope to combat tax
 frauds effectively.

dent - and James W. federal wage-price
 McCord, freeze.