

22 NYTimes c

# DEMOCRATS SEEK WATERGATE GAG

JAN 5 1973

Ask Judge to Question High  
Republicans on Wiretaps

By WALLTER Rugaber  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Man. 4 —

A Federal judge was asked today to require a number of ranking Republicans to say whether they had ever possessed a number of ranking Republicans to say whether they had ever possessed information detained by eavesdropping at the offices of the Democratic National Committee.

The Republicans, including former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans and Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, would be permitted to testify behind closed doors, according to the request.

The move was proposed by a group of Democrats as part of an effort to suppress any discussion — at the forthcoming trial of the Watergate case or elsewhere — of the contents of any intercepted conversations.

Seven men, scheduled to go on trial Monday before Chief Judge John J. Sirica of the United States District Court here, have been charged with conspiracy to bug and wiretap the party's Watergate headquarters last May and June.

## Liberties Union Lawyer

The Democrats, represented by Charles Morgan Jr. of the American Civil Liberties Union, asserted that unless Judge Sirica acted, the contents of overheard conversations might become "public information or common knowledge."

The Democrats include Robert E. B. Allen, director of the party's youth activities, Severin M. Beliveau, president of the party's State Chairmen Association, and Robert S. Vance, vice president of the association.

Also, R. Spencer Oliver, executive director of the party association, and Ida Maxwell Wells, his secretary, A wiretap was reported to have been found on Mr. Oliver's telephone at the committee offices.

In addition to preventing disclosure of their conversations, the Democrats want Judge Sirica to track down any "logs, notes, transcriptions, tapes . . . or other memoranda" of the contents.

It has been alleged that such materials went to officials in the Administration and in President Nixon's campaign organization but the question has never been publicly and officially explored.

The Republicans would be required to name anyone who possessed bugging material and, also in secret, to turn over written or taped material to the court for destruction.

Others specifically sought for questioning included the following:

L. Patrick Gray 3d, acting director of the Federal Bureau

of Investigation; John W.

Dean 3d, counsel to the President; William E. Timmons, assistant to the President for Congressional relations, and Charles W. Colson, special counsel to the President.

Also named by the Democrats were Clark MacGregor, director of the Committee to re-elect the President, and a number of other campaign aides. Many were linked with the Watergate affair in some way during the campaign.

A hearing on the Democratic move was set for tomorrow.