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Spying on Demos Necessary, Defense Lawyer Tries to Show

WASHINGTON (AP) — A defense attorney in the Watergate political espionage trial sought to convince the jury today of the necessity of Republicans' planting a spy among Democratic presidential candidates last year.

Gerald Alch, attorney for James W. McCord Jr., former security chief for President Nixon's re-election campaign, questioned key prosecution witness Thomas Gregory extensively about antiwar demonstrations during the spring of 1972.

Alch said during a recess he would try to prove that McCord was trying to find out if there was danger of violence to Republicans, including President Nixon. He said this would be the key to his defense of McCord.

Alch said he would attempt to show that potentially violent groups were supporters of the Democrats being spied upon and were in contact with them.

Gregory had testified earlier that he was planted in the campaign headquarters of Democrats Edmund S. Muskie and George McGovern during the Democratic presidential primary campaign to gather

intelligence for the Republicans.

ALCH ASKED Gregory if he were working in the McGovern headquarters at the time a bomb was exploded in the Pentagon last May and when demonstrations and violence erupted in Washington. Gregory replied: "I don't know."

He gave a similar reply when asked if he was at McGovern's headquarters last May during demonstrations on Capitol Hill, DuPont Circle and at Andrews Air Force Base in nearby Maryland.

Gregory also said that, during a time he was helping process McGovern campaign contributions, he did not recall seeing any from the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and that "I am not sure" there were any from the National Peace Action Coalition.

Gregory said, however, the envelopes were coded according to the mailing list from which they were drawn and that some of those bore the code of the liberal Americans for Democratic Action.

GREGORY TESTIFIED that, as a Brigham Young University student and former Mormon missionary to Brazil, he

was influenced to take a spying assignment by a \$175 salary promised him by E. Howard Hunt Jr., former White House consultant who pleaded guilty last week at the trial.

Peter Maroulis, attorney for G. Gordon Liddy, former counsel to Nixon's campaign finance committee and, with McCord, the only other remaining Watergate defendants, sought to discredit Gregory's identification of Liddy as one of the men who planned an attempt to plant electronic bugs at the McGovern headquarters.

However, Alch began his cross examination by saying, "I accept as truth whatever you say you saw and heard."