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Debate on Taped Talks Watergate

By Lawrence Meyer Washington Post Staff Writer

The Watergate bugging trial the question of whether a key tions that Baldwin overheard government witness should be could be admitted in the trial said he monitored.

Charles Morgan Jr., a lawyer revealed. for five officials and employversations were monitored by Watergate trial.

Baldwin testified Wednesday that he was hired last May by James W. McCord Jr., then the security coordinator, for the Committee for the Reelection of the President, and directed to monitor telephone conversations in the Democratic Party's Watergate headquarters from a hotel across would have a right to open the the street.

McCord is on trial with G. Gordon Liddy, another former and eavesdropping in connec-prove its case.

jaide E. Howard Hunt, have the conversations, pleaded guilty to the charges.

The Court of Appeals ruled was stalled yesterday as the last week that testimony about U.S. Court of Appeals took up the contents of the conversaallowed to testify about the only after the trial judge, contents of conversations he Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica, held a closed hearing The hearing was sought by to determine what would be

If anyone objected to the ees of the Democratic Party disclosures and if Sirica overwho said their telephone con- ruled the objections, the Appellate Court ruled, the mat-Alfred E. Baldwin III, a key ter would be brought back to government witness in the it for immediate review. That happened Wednesday, and the court heard arguments yester. should be discussed. McCord's day without reaching a deci-sion. lawyer, Gerald Alch, sided with Morgan, arguing that it

Morgan, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, argued that if the prosecution were allowed to go into the contents of the conversations at all, defense lawyers subject up for full discussion on cross-examination.

Morgan repeated his contenelection committee official, on tion that the government does charges of conspiracy, bur- not need to go into the conglary and illegal wiretapping tents of the conversation to

at the Democratic Party head- said that if the defense were days. The jurors are not given quarters. Five other men, in- barred from cross-examining an explanation as to why they cluding former White House witnesses on the contents of are not in court.

"compelling argument" could be made by the defense on appeal that a defendant had been denied his constitutional rights.

Complaining about 😤 the "unprecedented interruption with orderly conduct of the trial" that the Appellate Court had caused, Silbert also repeated his contention that the Court of Appeals was in "too abstract" a position to decide what should or should not be admitted in evidence.

Lawyers for McCord and Liddy split on whether the contents of the conversations would not help his client to have the contents of the overheard conversations disclosed.

Liddy's lawyer, Peter Maroulis, said he wanted the contents introduced and asserted his right to cross-examine witnesses on the contents of conversations.

Since the sequestered jury began hearing arguments and testimony in the case on Jan. 10, it has sat for only three full days, hearing testimony for only a portion of two other tion with the June 17 break-in Prosecutor Early J. Silbert days and no testimony on two