

SFChronicle JAN 20 1973

## Damaging Testimony in Bugging Trial

### Washington

The star government witness at the Watergate bugging trial testified yesterday he watched helplessly from across the street while police moved in to arrest President Nixon's campaign security chief, planting a bug at Democratic headquarters.

The witness, former FBI agent Alfred C. Baldwin III, said he shouted warnings over a walkie-talkie but it was too late.

A voice came on the radio saying in a whisper, "They've got us," Baldwin said.

### EVIDENCE

Meanwhile, the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled 2 to 1 the actual contents of conversations Baldwin monitored from the tapped telephone of R. Spencer Oliver, a Democratic party official, could not be admitted as evidence. To do so, the court said, would "frustrate the purpose of Congress in making wiretapping a crime."

Chief prosecutor Earl J. Silbert, who had argued at least some of the contents were vital to the government's case, said he would decide over the weekend whether to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

Baldwin's testimony on the tenth day of the Watergate trial was the most damaging yet to the two remaining defendants in the alleged

bugging attempt, James W. McCord Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy.

### POSTS

McCord was security coordinator for Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign when police arrested him and four other men before dawn June 17 inside the Watergate complex offices of the Democratic National Committee. Liddy then was a financial counsel to the re-election committee.

Of the seven men later charged with conspiracy, burglary, bugging and wiretapping, five have pleaded guilty — former White House consultant E. Howard Hunt Jr. and the four men arrested at the Watergate with McCord.

Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica recessed the trial at noon until Monday so court employees could have a half-day inaugural holiday. He also arranged for the sequestered jurors to watch the inaugural parade from fourth-floor windows of the district court building.

United Press