

Watergate Conspirator Posts \$100,000 Bond, Quits D.C. Jail

By Lawrence Meyer
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James W. McCord Jr., the former security director for President Nixon's re-election committee who was convicted in the Watergate bugging trial in January, posted \$100,000 bond yesterday and was released from the D.C. jail.

McCord, who has been imprisoned since his conviction, left the U.S. District Courthouse yesterday without speaking to reporters. Bernard Shankman, one of McCord's lawyers, said the money for his bond was put up by "friends."

As McCord was being released pending his sentencing, his lawyers filed a motion asking for a new trial on the grounds that Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sieica committed nine errors in the course of the three-week trial.

In a separate but related matter, attorneys for the Democratic National Committee in a civil suit stemming from the bugging and break-in of its Watergate headquarters, asked U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey to order the white House, the Justice Department and other government agencies to turn over documents relating to the incident.

According to informed sources, McCord posted \$100,000 with a surety company, which in turn gave him bond as Sirica required on Feb. 5.

One other of the seven Watergate defendants, former White House aide E. Howard Hunt Jr., also posted \$100,000 after pleading guilty to charges of conspiracy, burglary, illegal wiretapping and eavesdropping.

McCord was convicted along

with G. Gordon Liddy, also a former White House aide and finance counsel for the Committee for the Re-election of the President. Liddy is being held in the federal penitentiary at Danbury, Conn., pending sentencing.

The remaining four defendants, who are all from Miami, pleaded guilty during the trial. They are in D.C. jail also awaiting sentencing. Sirica is expected to sentence all seven men before the end of the month.

McCord's motion for a new trial, filed by Shankman and Gerald Alch, charges that Sirica's conduct of the trial "reflected an extension of the judicial role of the Court in the area of prosecution and investigation."

Throughout the trial, Sirica expressed his intention "to get to the bottom" of the Watergate case. He pursued this intention by questioning all five defendants who pleaded guilty as well as two key prosecution witnesses.

McCord's motion alleges that Sirica also erred in reading to the jury a portion of his examination of one witness after the judge had questioned him out of the jury's presence.

Other alleged errors cited in the brief included Sirica's failure to question each prospective juror individually to see if their judgment had been prejudiced by pretrial publicity and his refusal to grant a mistrial after five defendants had pleaded guilty.

The other alleged errors concern Sirica's instructions to the jury, interruptions he made during opening and closing statements by defense law-

yers, and his refusal to allow Alch to argue that McCord had a legal right to bug the Democrats.

In the civil suit, brought by the Democratic National Committee and others against re-election committee finance chairman Maurice H. Stans, McCord, Hunt, Liddy and other committee officials, lawyers for the Democratic Party yesterday asked the Court to order the committee to open its financial records for inspection as part of the suit.

In addition, the Democratic Party lawyers are seeking documents from the White House, the Justice Department and the United States attorney for the District of Columbia.

From the White House, the Democrats are seeking "all reports, memoranda and other documents prepared by John Dean III or by any other member or members of the White House staff . . . in relation" to the Watergate break-in.

Dean, counsel to President Nixon, conducted an investigation after the incident that, the President said, concluded that no one then employed at the White House was involved in the Watergate incident.

In addition, the Democrats asked the White House to turn over any other reports in their possession concerning the Watergate incident, any inventory of objects left by Hunt in the Executive Office Building, any documents that contain information Hunt obtained concerning any elected Democratic official or party officer, and any reports, memos or other documents prepared by any White House official concerning political espionage "or

similar activities" conducted by Hunt, Liddy or others.

From the Justice Department, the Democrats are seeking the results of its investigation, including anything describing "the possible involvement of past or present members of the White House staff" in the Watergate incident or other political espionage directed against the Democrats.

The U.S. attorney is asked to turn over minutes of a grand jury investigation that led to the indictment of the seven men. In addition, telephone records, credit card records, financial and travel records for the defendants and committee officials are sought.

In addition to asking the Nixon re-election committee to disclose all contributions of more than \$100 made between Dec. 31, 1971, and June 30, 1972, and committee expenditures, the Democrats are seeking records of transactions between Robert L. Vesco and the re-election finance committee or anyone acting for either party.

Vesco, the subject of a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation, gave a secret \$200,000 contribution to the re-election committee April 10. The \$200,000 contribution and another \$50,000 that he gave was returned to Vesco last Jan. 31.

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