

McCord Lists More Names In Watergate

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Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. has supplied a special Senate investigating committee with names of additional persons he says were involved in the conspiracy to bug Democratic headquarters, the committee's chief counsel said yesterday.

The counsel, Samuel Dash, revealed in an unusual Sunday afternoon press conference that he and McCord held two tape-recorded meetings Friday and Saturday in which McCord "named names" and began supplying "a full and honest account" of the conspiracy.

[The Los Angeles Times reported that the men named by McCord are Jeb Stuart Magruder, a former presidential aide and John W. Dean III, counsel to the President. The Times did not reveal the sources of its information.]

Dash refused to reveal the substance of information received from McCord but said it will be made public "at the earliest possible time," perhaps during the committee's initial round of open hearings on the Watergate bugging case and other political espionage.

Dash told reporters that he believes McCord "will be able to provide documentation and other supporting evidence" to buttress his allegations that others were involved in the conspiracy and that political pressure was applied to the defendants to plead guilty in the case.

"He has given us specific information to indicate that his knowledge is quite complete," the counsel said, adding that McCord has agreed to continue cooperating until he has "fully disclosed" what he knows.

Dash said the information supplied by McCord includes both what he observed as a participant in the bugging operation and what he learned "from being privy to conversations with others."



SAMUEL DASH
... has tape recordings

The committee counsel said it is a "reasonable inference" that McCord's knowledge extends beyond the illegal activities for which he and six other men were indicted and found guilty. Accordingly, said Dash, the Senate's select committee investigating the Watergate bugging and related allegations of political espionage and sabotage may have to use its authority to grant McCord immunity from further prosecution.

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WATERGATE, From A1

McCord, former security coordinator of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, held his first meeting with Dash only hours after it was disclosed that McCord had agreed to cooperate in the continuing investigation of the Watergate case.

That agreement became known during a sentencing hearing Friday, when U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica made public a letter containing McCord's allegations of "political pressure" on the seven Watergate defendants and the involvement of persons as yet unnamed in the Watergate conspiracy.

McCord also said in the letter that perjury had been committed by government witnesses in the trial and that he could "not feel confident" talking to the FBI or with prosecutors who "work for the Department of Justice."

Dash said yesterday that he was contacted by McCord shortly after the court hearing and was told that McCord "wanted to meet . . . in response to Judge Sirica's urging that he cooperate fully with the Senate committee."

McCord's allegations, if true, would undermine a central premise of the government's Watergate prosecution, based on a six-month FBI and grand jury investigation, that there was no evidence to implicate others in the conspiracy. This was repeatedly asserted by the White House and the Justice Department.

During the trial of McCord and his six coconspirators, the government contended that the bugging of Democratic headquarters was an unauthorized and overzealous extension of legal security activities undertaken by the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Of the seven Watergate conspirators, McCord is the only one free on bond, which Sirica set at \$100,000. Sirica deferred sentencing of McCord until Friday, when McCord is scheduled to meet in private with Sirica.

It is unclear whether McCord will appear before the federal grand jury, which reopens its Watergate probe today. Since McCord has expressed distrust of the FBI and federal prosecutors, sources close to McCord said it is possible that he will not be ordered to appear before the grand jury.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.), chairman of the Senate's select Watergate investigating committee, has indicated previously that he believes a special prosecutor independent from the Justice Department should be appointed to bring any formal criminal charges that might develop from the committee's inquiry.

Dash, who was selected as the committee's chief counsel

by Ervin, said yesterday: "Mr. McCord also stated that he feared that any information he might give to the grand jury in the presence of representatives of the Department of Justice would be made immediately available to White House officials."

At the Senate Judiciary Committee's hearings considering L. Patrick Gray's nomination to become permanent FBI director, Gray testified that he turned over 82 of the FBI's Watergate files to presidential counsel John W. Dean III.

The distribution of these reports to the White House has seriously jeopardized Gray's confirmation, and according to many Senate sources has virtually assured that Gray will be rejected either by the Judiciary Committee or the full Senate.

Dash said McCord "clarified what he meant in his letter to Sirica about not trusting the FBI. He said he made that statement only because of the revelations at the Judiciary Committee hearings . . . that information obtained by the FBI in the Watergate investigation was given to White House officials."

Dash said that his meetings with McCord also were attended by an investigator from the committee's staff and by an attorney representing McCord.

Certain areas were not discussed, Dash said, because of "problems with civil suits" involving the Watergate break-in and because McCord has not yet been granted immunity from prosecution. The committee counsel said he forsores no difficulty in granting such immunity.

So far, said Dash, the discussions have been limited to the Watergate bugging operation and have not touched on any other activities that McCord and others may have involved in.

"I was . . . impressed with Mr. McCord's sincerity in giving us a full and honest account," Dash told reporters. "He's been very careful. His statements have been studied . . . He's willing to go under oath."

Dash also said that McCord intends to "clear the names of some persons mentioned in press accounts" of the bugging.

Dash said he "wasn't surprised" that one of the Watergate conspirators has agreed to cooperate with investigators and added that he will contact attorneys for the remaining six convicted men today to ask them to aid the committee's inquiry.

McCord, 54, who is a former FBI agent and 19-year veteran of the CIA, released a statement yesterday saying that he initially delayed contact with the Senate committee because it was his understanding that he had to wait until the completion of sentencing hearings.