

## McCord Claim

# 2 Nixon Aides 'Knew About Watergate Bugs'

By Robert L. Jackson and Ronald J. Ostrow

L.A. Times Service

Washington

Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. has told Senate investigators that White House counsel John W. Dean III and former presidential aide Jeb Stuart Magruder had prior knowledge of the bugging of Democratic National Committee headquarters last year, the Los Angeles Times learned yesterday.

McCord's accusations were made during private sessions Friday and Saturday with Samuel Dash, chief counsel for the special Senate committee probing the Watergate case and related matters.

McCord, elaborating on a letter made public in court Friday in which he charged that political pressure and perjury marred January's Watergate trial, told Dash that Magruder perjured himself during the trial.

According to a source familiar with the interviews, McCord said Magruder was not telling the truth when he denied advance knowledge of the break-in at Democratic headquarters last June 17, McCord said Magruder also should have named Dean as another having prior knowledge, the source said.

Magruder, who was deputy director of President Nixon's re-election campaign, denied McCord's charges concerning him last night.

"As I have stated before, and as has been stated by Mr. (John N.) Mitchell (former attorney general and campaign director), we did not have prior knowledge of the bugging," Magruder said.

"I have no idea about anyone outside our committee.



AP Wirephoto  
**SAMUEL DASH**  
Committee counsel

I cannot speak for John (Dean)."

Magruder now is director of policy development for the Commerce Department.

Dean could not be reached for comment.

At President Nixon's Florida home, Gerald Warren, deputy White House press secretary, said: "We categorically deny that Dean had any prior knowledge."

McCord told Dash that Dean had knowledge of and was involved in preparations for the bugging, the Times' source said.

But McCord refused to

provide the committee with further details pending his private meeting this week with chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica, who delayed his sentencing last Friday in urging him and other defendants to cooperate with the Senate committee and the federal grand jury.

McCord, the sources said,

See Back Page

### From Page 1

charged that others besides Dean and Magruder had advance knowledge of the Watergate operation, but told Dash he would supply their names later.

Dash, announcing at a press conference yesterday that he and another committee investigator had met with McCord, said McCord had named other persons not yet prosecuted and added he "will continue so."

Although Dash declined to disclose any information McCord supplied during their weekend sessions, he described the former GOP security director as "a very valuable witness."

Dash, a law professor with considerable experience as a prosecutor and defense attorney, told newsmen he was "thoroughly impressed with Mr. McCord's sincerity in giving us a full and honest disclosure."

Dash said McCord told him he will give the committee "documentation and other information that will corroborate his testimony."

McCord, it was learned, also told Dash that former White House consultant E. Howard Hunt Jr., who pleaded guilty to all charges against him early in the Watergate Trial, exerted pressure on four anti-Castro activists from Miami to also plead guilty—which they subsequently did.

McCord said the Miami men told him that Hunt promised "executive clemency" and monthly payments to them, the source said McCord also claimed he was pressured himself to plead guilty, but did not give further details, it was reported.

Only McCord and G. Gordon Liddy, the Nixon campaign's former financial counsel, stood trial and were convicted.

Dash said McCord's information would not be made public until the committee has time to confirm and corroborate it. He said this would probably take place at a public hearing, which could be as early as May, tentatively set as the committee's first hearing.

McCord, according to Dash, intends to give information that would clear the names of some persons mentioned in news reports on the case as well as implicate others.

McCord, in his interviews with Dash and committee investigator Harold Lipset of San Francisco, clarified the statement in his letter to Sirica that he did not feel confident in talking with the FBI.

"He said he made that statement only because of the revelations at the Judiciary Committee hearings on the confirmation of Mr. Gray — that information obtained by the FBI in the Watergate investigation was given to White House officials," Dash said.

McCord also told Dash that he feared any information he might give the grand jury in the presence of Justice Department prosecutors "would be made immediately available to White House officials," Dash said.

Dash's sessions with McCord, which ran three hours each and were tape-recorded, were conducted in the law office of Bernard Fensterwald, who was acting as substitute counsel for McCord. His regular lawyer, Gerald Alch, was out of town over the weekend.