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# Mitchell Is Linked To Bugging Plans

By Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein  
Washington Post Staff Writers

James W. McCord Jr. testified under oath yesterday that he was told by his principal superior in the Watergate conspiracy that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell had personally approved plans to bug the Democrats' headquarters, according to Senate sources.

McCord testified that his coconspirator and former White House aide, G. Gordon Liddy, told him that Mitchell had approved the plans and budget for the bugging while Mitchell was still serving as attorney general in February, 1972, the sources said.

According to the sources, McCord indicated that he knew of additional illegal wiretaps but would not discuss them with the Senate Watergate committee unless he is granted immunity from further prosecution.

McCord also said that he had been told by Liddy and former White House consultant E. Howard Hunt Jr., another conspirator, that presidential counsel John W. Dean III and former White House assistant Jeb Stuart Magruder had advance knowledge of the bugging operation, according to the sources.

In addition, the sources reported, McCord testified that he received "second-hand information" that Charles W. Colson, then special counsel to President Nixon, knew too that the Democrats' Watergate headquarters were to be placed under illegal electronic surveillance.

Colson has denied any advance knowledge of the bugging.

McCord's testimony was delivered in a 4½-hour, closed-door meeting of the Senate's select committee investigating the Watergate bugging and related acts of political espionage and sabotage. It came as Hunt was appearing before a grand jury at the same time (Details on Page A22).

McCord is scheduled to appear again before the Senate committee next Wednesday, presumably when the committee will vote whether to grant him immunity from further prosecution.

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JOHN N. MITCHELL  
... named by McCord



CHARLES W. COLSON  
... denies knowledge

One Senate source said that McCord's testimony about the alleged involvement of the high presidential aides was hearsay because his knowledge came from Liddy and Hunt.

Another of the sources said that McCord was very positive about the information he received from Liddy about Mitchell. "There was complete communication between McCord and Liddy about the subject," the source said.

That source, however, cautioned that McCord's information was not sufficient to prove illegal involvement of others in the celebrated conspiracy.

The sources said that McCord, the former security coordinator of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, provided leads in his testimony that could provide additional information about alleged involvement of those presidential aides.

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In addition, the sources said that McCord had indicated that he could provide other substantiation of his charges.

The sources described the involvement of Mitchell, Dean and Madruder—described by Shumway said the allegations were "active." In the words of one, "meaning that denied previously by Mitchell, they not only knew about it but were involved in aspects of it."

DeVan L. Shumway, the press spokesman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, also denied last night, as he has in the past, that any of the officials named by McCord had any advance knowledge of the Watergate fact that McCord is facing a prison sentence, Shumway said: "Well, I think that again that these are allegations that of the circumstances,"

are being leaked out of a committee without anyone being there to face his accusers and that these allegations are false, patently false. I think we've made that clear in the past."

Hunt and McCord—both former CIA employees—have been implicated in apparently unprecedented spying and intelligence gathering operations conducted against radical political movements, the news media and the Democratic Party.

Mitchell previously has denied any advance knowledge of the Watergate bugging. He could not be reached for comment last night.

Commenting on the 4½ hour session with McCord, Sen. Howard H. Baker (R-Tenn.), the acting chairman of yesterday's meeting, said that McCord was cooperative and provided "significant information covering a lot of territory."

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Included are disruptive activities aimed at Sen. Edmund

S. Muskie and others; the illegal surveillance of political presidential inauguration activities and the illegal attempt against Sen. George S. McGovern (D-Dak.) the eventual nominee seeking information on the personal life of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy; the illegal attempt to disrupt controversial hearings of the company's against settlement with contractors for the Johnson administration's illegal surveillance programs; the illegal attempt to discredit the news media and the Democratic Party.

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to be sentenced by United States District Judge John J. Sirica, sitting without a jury, in open court Saturday morning. In the letter he had received from McCord, Sirica said that in McCord who said he knew or be allowed to testify under political pressure, "perjury" with the seven members in the so-called "co-conspirators" of Sen. George S. McGovern in the Watergate.

That afternoon and in an onetime interview Saturday afternoon, Richard F. Nixon, 37, denied he met voluntarily in secret with the Washington Post reporter, Charles E. (Sandy) Dash, in that newspaper office, his chief counsel of the Senate Select Committee on Watergate investigating committee, to discuss the Watergate investigation, as reported in a report by Dash that announced confirmation of his findings to the public on Sunday in an unusual press conference which he held at the White House. While he refused to name the "named names" of others who allegedly worked with him, he allegedly had advance knowledge of the bugging of the Democratic Watergate headquarters in Washington, D.C., he absolutely no knowledge of the bugging of the White House or of his own quarters, Mr. Dash refused to name.

On Monday, the Los Angeles Times reported that McCord had reportedly been interviewed by other Senate sources last week during his testimony before the Select Committee on Watergate, confirming that McCord had years of the Nixon administration's presidential council, including a named presidential counselor.

McCord, a 45-year-old former White House

assistant to Hunt, left the White House to become the interim instead of President Nixon's so-called "ambassador" to the Soviet Union. He was succeeded by Alexander Dubcek, the Czechoslovakian leader who recently left the White House to enter private life. McCord was special counsel to the President's reorganization board, directly to Mr. Nixon and to Haldeman. It is a record.

On Monday, the Times noted that another of the men subsequently convicted in the Watergate conspiracy, Robert C. Ellsworth, a former member of the Select Committee on Watergate, was hired as a White House consultant. Hunt, who worked under Colson for the Nixon and former White House, Ellsworth was instrumental