

Senate Report

McCord Names Mitchell in Bugging Case

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Washington

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 co-conspirator and former White House aide, G. Gordon Liddy, told him that Mitchell had approved the plans and budget for the bugging in February, 1972, while Mitchell was still serving as Attorney General, 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.

KNOWLEDGE

McCord also said that he had been told by Liddy and 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.

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

villance.

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.

McCord is scheduled to

See Back Page

From Page 1

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

One senate source said that all McCord's testimony was "hear-say" because all his knowledge about the alleged involvement of the high presidential aides 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.

LEADS

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.

In addition, the sources



AP Wirephoto

JAMES W. McCORD
He said he was told

said that McCord had indicated that he could provide other substantiation of his charges.

The sources described the allegations about Mitchell, Dean and Magruder as "active," in the words of one, "meaning that they not only knew about it but were involved in aspects of it."

One of those named by McCord contended last night that he is positive McCord has "no substantive proof" of his allegations. He said that McCord "only has hearsay from Gordon Liddy and nobody should rely on what Gordon Liddy says. Of course, McCord is naming names, but he's basing it all on hearsay."

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 bugging.

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

In September, the Washington Post quoted sources involved in the Watergate investigation as saying that Mitchell controlled disbursements from a secret cash fund used to finance spying on the Democrats.

The sources said that beginning in the spring of 1971, almost a year before he left the Justice Department to become President Nixon's campaign manager on March 1, 1972, Mitchell per-

sonally approved disbursements.

MONEY

Testimony at the Watergate trial showed that about \$235,000 in cash from this fund was given to Liddy to conduct an intelligence gathering operation. Liddy used this money for the Watergate operation without the approval of others, according to the testimony.

Hugh W. Sloan Jr., the former Nixon committee treasurer, testified at the trial that the disbursement to Liddy was indirectly approved by Mitchell.

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.

Included are widespread disruptive activities aimed at Senator Edmund S. Muske (Dem-Maine), the initial frontrunner for his party's presidential nomination; spying and a bugging attempt against Senator George S. McGovern (Dem.-S.D.), the eventual nominee; seeking out information on the personal life of Senator Edward M. Kennedy; an alleged attempt to discredit International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. lobbyist Dita Beard's controversial memo linking the company's anti-trust settlement with a contribution for the Republican national convention; an investigation of syndicated columnist Jack Anderson; investigations of leaks to the news media that, according to Time magazine, included tapping reporters telephones; and infiltration of radical student groups and the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.