

Weicker Call On Haldeman to Testify

By Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward
Washington Post Staff Writers

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Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.) said yesterday that he believes White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman probably had knowledge of a wide range of political espionage, disruption and surveillance conducted on behalf of the President's re-election.

In an interview on CBS television's Face the Nation, Weicker, a member of the Senate's select Watergate investigating Committee, said that Haldeman was fully aware of all the "personnel" and all the "policies" of the President's re-election committee.

"Now the time has come for the chief of staff to step forward and explain," Weicker said, adding that "I think it's absolutely necessary that Mr. Haldeman testify before the select committee."

While not accusing Haldeman of advance knowledge of the Watergate bugging, Weicker said that "what the President has to realize now is that the issue really isn't Watergate, it's (other espionage and) what seems to be an apparent coverup of Watergate."

Weicker also said that it is possible that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, once the President's campaign manager, had knowledge of espionage and counterespionage activities. Weicker added: "I have no specific knowledge that John Mitchell was involved with the Watergate."

Emphasizing that the bugging operation was just a single part of elaborate undercover activity that was conducted by the re-election committee, Weicker said that among the staff there was "an almost competitive attitude as to who could do the dirtiest deed."

Weicker repeatedly said President Nixon's re-election committee was almost wholly a creation of the White House and Haldeman, designed to exclude the Republican National Committee from decision-making in the Nixon campaign.

In the television interview yesterday, Weicker also said that:

• "Apparently at the instigation of Mr. Haldeman" the Republican National Committee was requested to "keep full track of comments made by

Senator McGovern, Mrs. McGovern, Sargent Shriver and See WATERGATE, A5, Col. 1

WATERGATE, From A1

Mrs. Shriver during the course of the campaign." The Republican National Committee refused the assignment.

• The arrests of five men inside the Democrats' Watergate headquarters June 17 caused the termination of plans to bug Sen. George McGovern's headquarters here on the same weekend. In addition, "the unit was to move on to Miami to go ahead and bug Mr. (Lawrence F.) O'Brien and some of the top officials down there." (At the time O'Brien was the Democratic National chairman.)

• Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. sent a paid agent of the Nixon committee to Capitol Hill last spring to conduct surveillance on the congressional offices of nine Republican and Democratic critics of the Nixon administration.

Weicker said the targets of the surveillance were the offices of Sens. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), Edmund S. Muskie (D-Me.) and Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.), all potential Democratic presidential nominees; Rep. Paul N. McCloskey (R-Calif.), who was challenging President Nixon for the Republican presidential nomination; Sens. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.), Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.), Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), William Proxmire (D-Wis.), and Rep. Edward I. Koch (D-N.Y.), all persistent critics of the administration.

Weicker identified the person conducting the surveillance as Alfred C. Baldwin III, an ex-FBI agent and key witness at the Watergate trial who testified that he monitored the wiretapped conversations of Democrats in the Watergate.

Specifically, Weicker said Baldwin's instructions from McCord were "to observe persons that were going in and out of the offices" of the nine senators and members of Congress. Part of the assignment was apparently to determine if any antiwar demonstrators were visiting the offices.

After the television interview, Weicker said "Baldwin told me of the surveillance Saturday during an eight-to-10-hour session I had with him

in Connecticut." During his testimony at the Watergate trial in January and in an earlier, in-depth interview with The Los Angeles Times, Baldwin did not mention the surveillance of congressional offices.

Baldwin yesterday reportedly disputed Weicker's account of the surveillance. According to sources familiar with Baldwin's activities, Baldwin has said he was conducting surveillance on Capitol Hill to check on demonstrators who, McCord had suggested, might be found entering and leaving the offices of antiwar legislators. The surveillance was directed at the demonstrators and not the congressmen, Baldwin has told others.

DeVan L. Shumway, a spokesman for the Nixon committee, responded to Weicker's statements, saying that "we deny categorically" that Baldwin had such assignments while employed by the President's campaign organization.

Shumway also said that Weicker should have waited "until he gets more evidence before going to a nationwide television audience and making these types of sensational charges."

Weicker, 41, has been conducting an independent Watergate investigation and is known to have reliable sources in the Republican National Committee.

Weicker made it clear that he believes President Nixon was not involved in the Watergate bugging or the other related acts of political espionage and sabotage in the 1972 presidential campaign. He clearly implied, however, that his opinion of Mr. Nixon did not apply to the President's chief of staff, Haldeman.

"... Did he (Haldeman) have knowledge that there was a unit whose responsibility it was to have disruption and to have surveillance, and this type of action take place within the President's campaign?" Weicker asked. "The answer is that he probably did. But this is what we've got to prove as a committee... and I don't think it's fair to point the finger at him and say this is the man responsible. All I'm saying is that when it came to personnel, he knew what was going on, and there was nothing in the way of policies that he didn't know was going on either."

McCord, former security chief of the President's re-election

committee, testified only briefly about Haldeman during a 4½-hour, closed-door appearance before the Senate committee Wednesday.

According to Senate sources, McCord said he once sent Haldeman a memorandum dealing with routine campaign security matters. McCord answered affirmatively when asked if Haldeman had general knowledge of the Nixon committee activities, but was not asked to elaborate.

The Senate sources said news accounts reporting McCord had intimated Haldeman had knowledge of the bugging were "totally inaccurate." One source said: "It came at the end of the session and the senators were asking McCord if he knew who certain people were. Haldeman was one of the names and McCord wasn't asked to go into much detail. Obviously, they intend to get back to the subject."

Sources in federal law enforcement agencies and the Nixon administration have told The Washington Post that the broad campaign of espionage and sabotage in the 1972 election was, in the words of more than one, "a Haldeman operation."

During his testimony before the Senate committee, McCord said he had been told by his principal superior in the conspiracy, former White House aide G. Gordon Liddy, that three top presidential aides had advance knowledge of the watergate bugging: Mitchell, White House counsel John W. Dean III, and the former special assistant to the President, Jeb Stuart Magruder.

Weicker said that "without any firsthand knowledge... I'm inclined to disbelieve" that Dean had any link to the bugging.

Dean, Magruder, Mitchell, and Haldeman have all denied any involvement in the Watergate bugging.

Regarding McCord's testimony on the alleged involvement of high Nixon administration officials in the Watergate bugging Weicker said: "I find him believable insofar as a narrow part of Watergate (the bugging) is concerned I certainly wouldn't want to base my entire case on James McCord. I think he's a good lead; I think much of the information that he's given to us will lead us elsewhere..."

Weicker noted that Mc-

Martha Mitchell Comment to UPI

Martha Mitchell Comment

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Cord's testimony was based on hearsay. "I want some corroborative evidence," the senator said, adding: "... There's going to be no witewash; but no witch hunts"

Martha Mitchell Criticizes Nixon

By Helen Thomas
United Press International

Martha Mitchell says the Administration out of desperation has tried to make her husband, the former attorney general, the scapegoat in the Watergate affair because "they want to hide who is really involved."

The wife of John N. Mitchell, who was President Nixon's campaign manager until he resigned at her insistence two weeks after the June 17 bugging of Democratic headquarters, telephoned this reporter from her New York apartment late Saturday night.

Mrs. Mitchell said it was a "goddamn lie" that her husband and convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. were good friends and were in almost daily contact last spring.

Her call followed press reports quoting Senate sources as saying McCord, former security chief of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, testified he had contact with Mitchell "nearly every day" last spring about Republican campaign security.

Mitchell had said in a sworn statement last September that he conferred with McCord only once, about security at the committee's offices, and spoke to him only casually in the hallway afterwards.

"I think McCord is a double agent," Mrs. Mitchell said. "John didn't know him in the slightest." She said she knew McCord only as a passing acquaintance because he "employed all the people who were to be my bodyguards."

Said Mrs. Mitchell: "I think this administration has turned completely against my husband. In other words, they're desperate, and I will not under any circumstances let them pin it on my husband."

"I think my husband has become the whipping boy for the whole administration, and they want to hide who is really involved."

Asked who was involved, she replied, "That is your problem. I don't know. It's a \$64,000 question..."

"I don't know what's going to happen," she said, "but I've got news for you: nothing is going to happen to my husband... I'm extremely upset. I'm not going to take it."



Associated Press

Sen. Lowell Weicker explains point on TV show.

Mrs. Mitchell called
NYTimes 27 Mar -
NYTimes 29 Mar 73.