

McCord Says Dean Cleared His Getting Job

Convicted Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. has testified under oath that his hiring as security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-election of the President was apparently cleared through White House counsel John W. Dean III.

Dean, who recommended that watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy be hired by the re-election committee, is one of the high presidential aides who McCord has said he was told had advance knowledge of the bugging of Democratic headquarters.

In a sworn deposition to attorneys for the President's re-election committee, McCord said that he was first contacted in the fall of 1971 about doing security work in the Nixon campaign, and that the contact was made by Alfred Wong, the special agent in charge of the White House Secret Service detail.

Wong, according to McCord's testimony, told him that if he was interested in a job in the campaign someone would call him later. That call came in September, 1971, from John Caulfield, who identified himself as a member of the White House staff, McCord continued.

At a meeting with Caulfield, McCord said, they discussed the general concept of campaign security and Caulfield brought up Dean's name. "He said he was sending some sort of memo to John Dean about me and my qualifications," McCord testified, and asked if McCord testified, and asked if background data that could be forwarded to Dean.

McCord's deposition contains no explanation of why Dean, the President's legal counsel, would have a role in the hiring of the Nixon campaign's security coordinator.

DeVan L. Shumway, a spokesman for the re-election committee, declined to comment on the McCord deposition. "This is hearsay, and I don't think we can comment on hearsay," Shumway said of reference to Dean, and then referred any further inquiries to the White House.

The White House was then asked why Dean might have a role in McCord's hiring and, as of last night, had not responded to the question.

In another deposition, taken last Aug. 31, Secret Service Agent Wong said he recommended McCord to Caulfield, but made no mention of ever contacting McCord personally about going to work at the President's re-election committee.

Caulfield, then an assistant to the President, "said that the committee was looking for a general officer who had knowledge of all phases of security, and did I know of one?" Wong testified, and added: " . . . I told (Caulfield) that I could not think of a good general security officer at that moment, but then, again, I said I just heard that a man by the name of James McCord had retired from the CIA . . . and that he enjoyed a very good reputation in the community as a good security officer."

In his deposition, Wong declined to answer what Caulfield's duties at the White House were, citing "security reasons." Caulfield, according to Shumway, headed the security operation for the 1968 Nixon campaign and, before

joining the White House staff, worked "as a security man" for former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

Caulfield reportedly left the White House staff in the spring of 1972 to work for several weeks as an assistant to Mitchell, then the President's campaign manager, at the Nixon re-election committee. He is now acting assistant director for criminal enforcement at the Department of the Treasury.

The Washington Post has repeatedly attempted to interview Caulfield over the past six months, but he has declined to be interviewed or specify his duties at the White House or for the re-election committee.

McCord's deposition to lawyers for the committee is being taken as part of one of the civil suits arising from the June 17 break-in at the Watergate.

At one point in the deposition McCord refused to say if he had any tape recordings in his possession that might be relevant to the bugging conspiracy, after being advised by attorney Henry B. Rothblatt not to answer the question until being granted immunity from further prosecution.

McCord was granted such immunity on Thursday, and is expected to answer the question when the deposition continues next week.

Another attorney for McCord, Bernard Fensterwald, said the only tapes that he knows are in McCord's possession are recordings of lectures for classes he gave in security work at Montgomery Junior College.

At another point in the deposition, McCord said he took notes about activities "in the security area" while at the Nixon re-election committee and has since turned some of them over to a grand jury investigating the Watergate bugging.

McCord also said that for a two-week period in April he went daily to the apartment of former Attorney General Mitchell to pick up the Mitchells' daughter and drive her to school because Mrs. Mitchell feared she might be harmed.

He said he would often meet Mitchell or Mrs. Mitchell or their maid there, although Mitchell has said under oath he only met McCord once — at the re-election committee — except to pass him in the hall at the committee.

Mrs. Mitchell, McCord testified, was so concerned about the family's security, including the possibility of being wiretapped or bugged, that he once X-rayed all the furniture in the Mitchell's apartment, after she received a death threat over her unlisted telephone. McCord said he also had a telephone company security officer check out the Mitchell's telephones.

McCord himself said he has been the target of a telephoned bomb threat since agreeing to disclose all he knows about the Watergate conspiracy and possibly other related illegal activities.

"It was a telephone call to my wife by an individual that a bomb was going to go off under our house," McCord said. "It frightened her and my wife moved to a friend's house."