

McCord's 'Watergate Plot Tapes'

Associated Press

Washington

Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. indicated in a sworn statement that he has tape recordings of conversations he had with other people in 1972 while the plot to bug Democratic headquarters was brewing, it was disclosed yesterday.

He also said this week that there had been threats against his life and that death threats had been made to Martha Mitchell, wife of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

His attorney refused to allow McCord to answer questions about the tape recordings saying, "We have reason to believe that any tape recordings that were taken might have been in violation of some statute which will violate his privilege against self-incrimination."

McCord's statements were in a sworn deposition taken Tuesday by lawyers in three civil suits that stemmed from the Watergate affair last year. They were made public yesterday.

"There have been threats, bomb threats against my family," McCord told law-

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yers, "There have been other forms of harassment. . . We fear retaliation. My family fears for its life."

McCord also said that in 1972 a death threat had been made to Mrs. Mitchell.

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

He said he would meet Mitchell or Mrs. Mitchell or their maid.

Mrs. Mitchell also was

concerned, he said, that their apartment, located in residential areas of the Watergate complex, might be bugged or wiretapped.

"I took the chief security officer of the C&P (Chesapeake and Potomac) Telephone Co. with me at the point where she received the death threat over her unlisted telephone," McCord swore. There was no further elaboration of this statement.

Mrs. Mitchell was so concerned about the family's security, McCord said, that he once X-rayed all the furniture in the apartment.

McCord said he was hired as security chief for the Nixon re-election committee in November or December 1971 and that he met Mitchell a number of times.

"Usually he would be at the door and greet the driver and me and say a word or two of pleasantries," McCord said of the time when he was driving the daughter.

OFFICE

As security officer for the committee, McCord said he checked out Mitchell's office at the re-election headquarters.

He also revealed that he has turned over some personal notes made in 1972 to the grand jury investigating Watergate and other espionage activities. It was the first time it had been revealed that McCord kept notes.

McCord's attorney refused Tuesday to allow him to answer questions about the tape recordings — citing the possibility of his violating his privilege against self-incrimination — before McCord had received immunity for anything he might say to a grand jury.

SUITS

In a single appearance before the Senate Select Committee on Watergate last week, McCord reportedly said that a number of top White House officials were aware of plans for the breakin at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate building but he brought no corroboration to the committee.

In the deposition taken in the civil suits McCord refused to answer questions about his activities when he was an agent with the CIA.

He said he had been trained by the FBI in "very highly classified work" during World War II and "I received training in certain matters pertaining to codes' ciphers."

He also refused to discuss "anything that has taken place within the Senate Select Committee."

McCord said he was contacted about the job by John Caulfield whom he described as "a federal coordinator of law enforcement" and then was introduced to John Dean III, the President's official lawyer.

"I don't recall much in the way of conversations specifically that took place except some reference by Mr. Caulfield which appeared to me to indicate that he had a familiarity that Mr. Dean knew who I was."

After that McCord said he was interviewed by Jeb Magruder and Robert Odle, both officials of the Nixon re-election committee.