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McCord Ties Nixon Group To Payoffs

Washington

James W. McCord Jr. has told a federal grand jury he believes that Kenneth W. Parkinson, an attorney for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, channeled cash payments to the Watergate defendants in return for silence after their arrest inside Democratic headquarters last June 17, sources close to the case said yesterday.

The sources said McCord, one of seven men sentenced to prison for their role in the b r e a k - i n . further testified that he believed Parkinson was responsible for "applying the pressure" on the defendants to plead guilty shortly before the trial began in January. Five of the seven did so and the other two were convicted.

The sources noted, however, that McCord had based much of his grand jury testimony on hearsay evidence.

Yesterday's disclosure marked the first time that the name of Parkinson or that of any member or employee of the Republican re-election committee had been linked to the cash payments.

Parkinson, a member of the Washington law firm of Jackson, Gray & Lansky, categorically denied making such cash payments.

N.Y. Times Service