

# New Watergate Link to Mitchell

## Washington

James W. McCord Jr. has testified before a federal grand jury that his principal superior in the Watergate conspiracy told him that the transcripts of the wiretapped conversations of Democratic party officials were hand-carried to former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, according to reliable sources.

The sources reported that McCord also testified that his superior in the conspiracy, former White House aide G. Gordon Liddy, told him that Mitchell had ordered a "list of priorities" in establishing electronic eavesdropping operations against the Democrats.

Mitchell, through a spokesman at the re-election committee, denied that he ever received transcripts or logs of wiretapped conversations and denied once more that he had prior knowledge of any plans for illegal electronic eavesdropping.

McCord, according to the reliable sources, said the first priority was to bug the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate; then the campaign headquarters of Senator George S. McGovern; and finally, rooms in the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami to be occupied by presidential candidates and party officials at the Democratic national convention.

McCord, the former security coordinator of the committee for re-election of the President, was reached by telephone yesterday and confirmed the sources' account of his grand jury testimony.

In related developments:

• Three principal figures in an alleged campaign of political espionage and sabotage conducted against the Democrats appeared before the same grand jury as McCord yesterday. They are former presidential appoint-

ments secretary Dwight L. Chapin, former White House aide Gordon Strachan, and alleged political saboteur Donald H. Segretti.

• Reliable investigative sources said that Mitchell and former commerce secretary Maurice H. Stans, the chief Nixon fund raiser, appeared earlier this month before a Federal grand jury in New York City investigating a \$200,000 cash contribution to the Nixon committee by Robert I. Vesco. Vesco is

the central figure in a Securities and Exchange Commission suit alleging that investors were swindled out of \$224 million.

• Philip S. Hughes, head of the Federal elections office in the General Accounting Office, said that an investigation of the Nixon campaign's finances will be expanded to include an apparent violation of the law in the disbursement of at least \$70,000 in cash to Mitchell's closest aides. Reliable investigative sources have said the money came from the same fund that financed the Watergate bugging and was not properly reported under the new campaign finance disclosure law.

Like his earlier testimony before the Senate's select investigating committee, McCord's grand jury statements about the alleged involvement in wiretapping activities of presidential aide aides and advisers was based on hearsay — primarily in the form of what he says he was told by Liddy.

Liddy has been sentenced to an additional prison term for contempt of court in refusing to answer the grand jury's questions, including those based on what he is said to have told McCord.

Washington Post Service



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Donald Segretti (left) and his attorney, William D'Amico, ran for a cab after Segretti appeared before grand jury.