

Watergate-- New 'Link' to White House

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Washington

Federal investigators have determined that officials of the White House were regularly kept informed last May and June of some of the information obtained through the illegal wire-tapping of the Democratic National Committee headquarters, sources close to the case said yesterday.

They said that typed reports of the bugged conversations — which were prepared by a secretary working at the Committee for the Re-election of the President—were not transmitted to the White House in full.

Instead, the sources said, a committee official apparently edited the typed report to send only the most significant political information to the White House.

STAFF

It could not be immediately learned who received the documents, nor was it known which member of the re-election committee staff processed the material. And it was not immediately known whether the White House recipients of the wire-tap information were fully aware of its origin.

Sources reported that the documents contained highly confidential information about the Democrats' planning for their national convention in Miami Beach, as well as details on the selection of delegates.

The existence of the wire-tap reports among high officials of the re-election committee had been previously reported, but until now there has been no indication that any of that information was passed on to White House officials and political aides there.

It is known that at least three White House aides maintained regular contact with the re-election committee during the last campaign. They are H. R. Halde-
man, President Nixon's

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chief of staff; Charles W. Colson, special counsel to the President and one of the leading political strategists; and Ken W. Clawson, the deputy director of communications for the executive branch who reported to Colson.

Clawson's main responsibility during the campaign was to control the operations in which various major Republican figures — known as "surrogates" — traveled the country making speeches on the President's behalf.

Colson supervised — among his many other responsibilities — the efforts to attract blue-collar and ethnic voters.

Halde-
man generally served as the link on all matters of substance between the committee and the President.

In an interview last October, Alfred C. Baldwin III, a former FBI official who worked for the Watergate bugging team, described dozens of hours in a Howard Johnson's motel across the street from the Democratic headquarters monitoring telephone conversations there.

LOG

Baldwin said he had prepared a typed log containing salient information from the telephone tap. The log would be picked up by his superior, James W. McCord Jr., another member of the Watergate team, "once or twice a day." The logs, which often ran to six pages, he said, were then summarized by McCord, who began by writing that "a confidential source reports . . ."

Such language is normally used by the investigating agencies of the government to describe information obtained by wiretaps.

For purposes of concealing the illegal source of the information, the words "wiretap" or "bugging" are customarily not used.

Other Watergate developments yesterday:

- The American Broadcasting Company reported that Secretary of State William P. Rogers, who is one of Mr. Nixon's oldest political friends, had been assigned a house-cleaning job

to restore the integrity of the President's personal staff Rogers spent an evening alone with Mr. Nixon on the presidential yacht Sequoia last Monday night on the eve of the President's announcement of major new developments in the Watergate case. But a source close to Rogers said he had not been asked to undertake any new activity in connection with the case.

- John B. Connally, the former Treasury Secretary, and Melvin Laird, former Defense Secretary, were also being mentioned in Washington rumors as possible new White House chief of staff if the President ousts all the aides who have been mentioned in the Watergate investigation.

- The Federal grand jury that has been taking new testimony on the Watergate raid and the subsequent cover up did not convene yesterday. Sources close to the investigation said the break in the proceedings was related to official concern about the leaks of grand jury transcripts to columnist Jack Anderson.