

The Anatomy

Washington

The drumbeat of disclosures, growing more serious and sensational on virtually a daily basis since President Nixon announced two weeks ago that there were "major developments" in the case, has lifted Watergate into a national scandal of historic proportions.

GUARD

The case first came to light on the night of June 17, a Saturday. A security guard by the name of Frank Wills noticed a latch of a basement door taped open at the Watergate complex of apartments and offices. Wills removed the tape and continued his rounds. Later he discovered the tape had been replaced. He called the Washington Metropolitan Police.

At about 2:30 a.m. five men, including one who said he had been a CIA employee, were surprised at gunpoint by police in a sixth-floor suite occupied by the Democratic National Committee. When arrested, the suspects were all wearing rubber surgical gloves. Sophisticated electronic eavesdropping devices and burglary equipment were confiscated.

Police also seized \$2300 in cash. Most of the money was in \$100 bills with the serial numbers in sequence. As the months passed and the story unfolded, the use of \$100



JAMES McCORD
He started to talk

bills became a characteristic of the Watergate affair.

PLOT

The suspects, it developed were engaged in an elaborate plot to bug the Democratic party headquarters. Adding to the bizarre nature of the case was the composition of that original group of five men.

Some of them came from a background of anti-Castro activities with a vague and ill-defined association with the CIA in the days of the Bay of Pigs invasion of April, 1961. Three of the men were born in Cuba. A fourth was said to have trained Cuban exiles for guerrilla activity after the Bay of Pigs.

The fifth, booked as "Ed-

ward Martin, alias James W. McCord," said he had retired from the CIA in 1970. He gave his present occupation as a "security consultant."

ACCUSATIONS

Nine months later, after the trial and conviction of the original Watergate conspirators, it was McCord who precipitated a new round of accusations leading to yesterday's resignations. McCord stated publicly that "political pressure" had been applied to the Watergate defendants to plead guilty and remain silent, that government witnesses had committed perjury and that others were involved in the conspiracy.

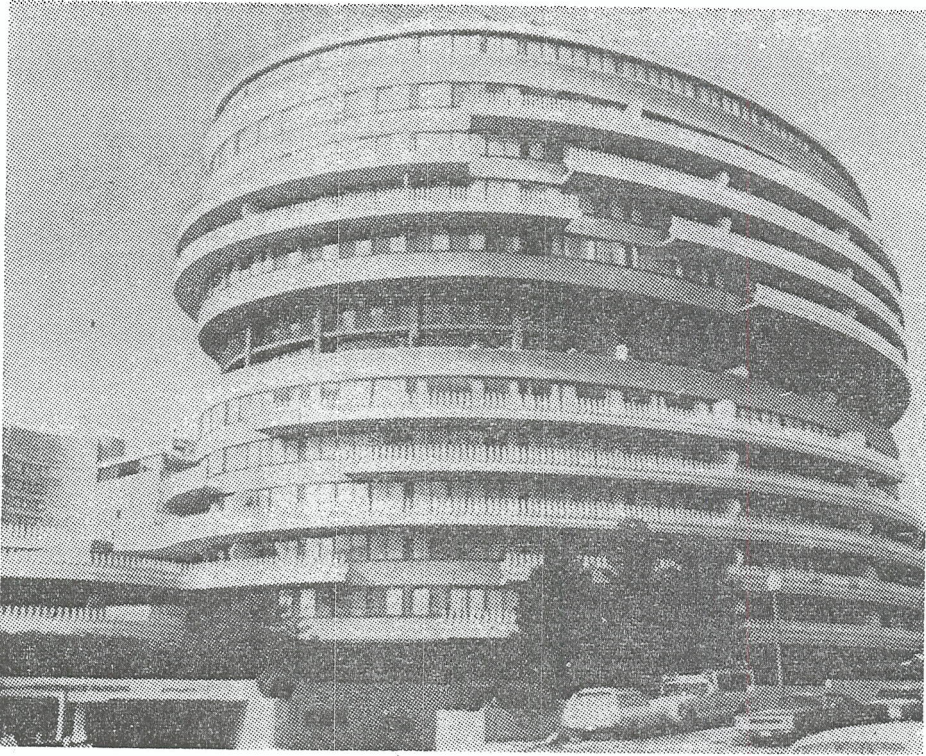
But for months after the original break-in and arrests, the Watergate case seemed confined to an incident without major national significance.

RESPONSE

Citizens did not respond to Watergate. Neither did important elements of the American press. Both seemed to accept the words of leading officials in the Nixon administration that Watergate, whatever else it was, had no connection with the White House or the Nixon re-election campaign apparatus.

The statements were unequivocal. John N. Mitchell, who had left his post as attorney general to head the

of a Scandal



The Watergate complex in Washington where the break-in occurred

Committee for the Re-Election of the President, immediately set the tone for the denials that followed.

Those arrested at the Watergate, Mitchell said, "were not operating either in our behalf or with our consent." As far as McCord was concerned, Mitchell said: "The person involved is the proprietor of a private security agency who was employed by our committee months ago to assist with the installation of our security system. He has, as we under-

stand it, a number of business clients and interests and we have no knowledge of these relationships."

On behalf of the President, press secretary Ronald Ziegler said he would not comment on a "third-rate burglary attempt." He added that "certain elements may try to stretch this beyond what it is."

NIXON

Six days after the break-in President Nixon made his first comment on the case.

He said Ziegler and Mitchell have "stated my position, and have also stated the facts accurately."

REPORTERS

But gradually pieces of the Watergate story began to surface. White House connections, although tenuous, were established as the names of E. Howard Hunt and G. Gordon Liddy became associated with high-ranking officials.

It is a matter of history that the Washington Post,

and particularly two young reporters on its metropolitan staff, Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward, provided much of the material that made Watergate a name known around the world.

It was their reporting of such things as an elaborate campaign of espionage and sabotage directed by prominent associates of the President, of the relationship between such people as Donald Segretti with White House appointments secretary Dwight Chapin, of the existence of secret cash funds used to finance the sabotage-espionage operations and of the links between such ranking officials as H. R. Haldeman and John Dean with the undercover work that led, eventually, to an unraveling of the case.

It is also a matter of history that the Post and its reporters became the principal objects of attacks by the administration.

"The Post has maliciously sought to give the appearance of a direct connection between the White House and the Watergate — a charge the Post knows — and a half dozen investigations have found — to be false," said Clark MacGregor, chairman of the Nixon re-election committee, last October 16.

That same day Ziegler said:

"I will not dignify with comment stories based on hearsay, character assassination, innuendo or guilt by association ... the President is concerned about the techniques being applied by the opposition in the stories themselves ... the opposition has been making charges which have not been substantiated."

Nine days later Ziegler termed the reports "a blatant effort at character assassination that I do not think has been witnessed in the political process in some time."

In a vitriolic comment issued at the peak of the presidential campaign, Senator Robert Dole, then chairman of the Republican National Committee, attacked what he called "political garbage" printed about the Watergate. "The Washington Post is conducting itself by journalistic standards that would cause mass resignations on principle from the Quicksilver Times, a local underground newspaper."

Within six months Dole would be calling publicly for the resignation of Haldeman

and Ehrlichman and saying "the credibility of the administration is zilch, zero."

EMPLOYED

Mr. Nixon himself had already expressed his own strong conviction that "no one in the White House staff, no one in this administration, presently employed, was involved in this very bizarre incident." He made that statement at a White House press conference last August 29.

At that time, he praised the work of his White House counsel, John Dean III, in investigating the Watergate case.

"The other point I should make," he said, "is that these investigations, the investigation by the GAO, the investigation by the FBI, by the Department of Justice, have, at my direction, had the total cooperation not only of the White House, but also of all agencies of the government."

"In addition to that, within our own staff, under my direction, counsel to the President, Mr. Dean has conducted a complete investigation of all leads which might involve any present members of the White House staff."

It was then that he said, "I can state categorically that his investigation" indicates no one either in the White House or the administration was involved.

Now, only three months later, Watergate, the scandal that would not die, has overtaken him and his administration.

Washington Post Service