

Day-by-Day ---McCord Tells Of Offer

Washington

Watergate burglar James W. McCord's story, spun out yesterday under hot television lights in the crowded Senate Caucus Room, is a tale of furtive telephone calls and nocturnal meetings in parked cars.

Here is a chronology of the days in January 1973 during which McCord says he was pressured to keep silent and offered executive clemency. It is based on McCord's sworn testimony:

January 8 *MON*

The first day of the Watergate trial. Sometime after 5 p.m. McCord was told by his lawyer, Gerald Alch, that "I would be called that same night by a friend I had known at the White House. I assumed this would be John Caulfield, who had originally recruited me for the Committee for the Re-election of the President." Alch said he was relaying that word from William Bittman, a lawyer for McCord's fellow conspirator, E. Howard Hunt.

That night, half an hour after midnight, McCord received a call from a man with a New York accent who identified himself as a friend of Caulfield, who, he said, was out of town. McCord was told to go to a public telephone booth near the Blue Fountain Inn on Highway 355, close to his Maryland home. The man said that "he had a message for me from Caulfield."

At the telephone booth the same man called and read a message:

"Plead guilty. One year is a long time. You will get executive clemency. Your family will be taken care of and, when you get out, you will be rehabilitated and a job will be found for you. Don't take immunity when called before the grand jury."

The man read the message twice. McCord refused to discuss it on the telephone.

January 10

The man with the New York accent called McCord to set up a personal call and a meeting with Caulfield.

The unidentified man called McCord to move up the meeting from Friday to that night. McCord insisted on the Friday date. Caulfield later called personally, but McCord's family refused to awaken him to receive the call.

January 12

McCord met with Caulfield from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Caulfield's car, parked at the second overlook along the George Washington Parkway. The spot commands a sweeping view of a bend in the Potomac river north of the Capitol. The Washington Monument can be seen in the distance lit by floodlights at that time of night.

"He said that the offer of executive clemency that he was passing along, and of support while in prison and rehabilitation and help toward a job later, was a sincere offer, he explained that he had been asked to convey this message to me and was only doing what he was told to do. He repeated the last statement several times.

"My response was that I would not even discuss executive clemency or pleading guilty and remaining silent, but I was glad to talk with him, so that there was no misunderstanding on anyone's part about it.

"Caulfield stated that he was carrying the message of executive clemency to me, 'from the very highest levels of the White House'. He stated that the President of the United States was in Key Biscayne, Fla., that weekend, had been told of the



JAMES McCORD
He read from documents

McCord's Little Joke

Washington

Watergate conspirator James M. McCord Jr., who all day had been serious and through the Senate Watergate Hearing yesterday.

Senator Herman Talmadge (Dem.-Ga.) asked McCord if former Attorney General John Mitchell knew him personally.

McCord said Mitchell did. "What did he call you?" Talmadge asked.

McCord deadpanned the reply: "Before or after June 17?"

June 17 was the date McCord was arrested by police as he and four others attempted to burglarize Democratic headquarters.

United Press

peated the clemency offer and said, "The President's ability to govern is at stake. Another Teapot Dome scandal is possible, and the government may fall.

"Everybody else is on track but you. You are not following the game plan. Get closer to your attorney. You seem to be pursuing your own course of action. Don't talk if called before the grand jury, keep silent and do the same if called before a congressional committee."

McCord went on "my response was that a massive injustice was being done, that I was different than the others, that I was going to fight the fixed case and had no intention of either pleading guilty, taking executive clemency or agreeing to remain silent.

"He repeated the statement that the government would have difficulty in continuing to be able to stand. I responded that they have a problem, but that I had a problem with the massive injustice of the whole trial being a sham. . . ."

January 15

"Caulfield called me again at the same phone booth on Route 355 near my residence. I informed him that I had no desire to talk further . . . and hung up."

January 16

Caulfield called McCord's home about 7:30 p.m., but McCord had already left for court. That evening, Caulfield reached McCord by telephone. "He said words to the effect, 'Give us a week.'"

January 25

McCord again met Caulfield, this time for about 2½ hours starting at 10 a.m. Caulfield drove them in his car toward Warrenton, Va., and back.

"A conversation ensued which repeated the offers . . . I refused to discuss it. He stated that I was 'fouling up the game plan.' I made a few comments about the 'game plan'."

Caulfield said, "they" had found no record of the tapped telephone conversations of which McCord complained.

McCord said he told Caulfield he intended to talk publicly about who was behind the Watergate raid. "He responded by saying that 'you know that if the administration gets its back to the wall it will have to take steps to defend itself. I took that as a personal threat and I told him in response that I had a good life, that my will was made out and that I had thought through the risks and would take them when I was ready.

"He said that if I had to go off to jail that the administration would help me with the bail . . ."

March 22

The evening before McCord was to be sentenced, "Jack called me and said that the administration would provide the \$100,000 in cash if I could tell him how to get it funded through an intermediary. I said that, if we ever needed it, I would let him know. I never contacted him thereafter, neither have I heard from him."

March 23

Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica read in open court a letter McCord had given to him a few days before. In it, McCord said he was ready to talk alleged that perjury had been committed at the trial, said his family feared for his life and that political pressure had been applied to him to keep silent.

forthcoming meeting with me and would be immediately told the results of the meeting.

"He further stated that 'I may have a message for you at our meeting from the President himself.' The clemency offer was repeated two or three times, and rejected by McCord each time.

McCord told Caulfield it was clear to him that he wouldn't get a fair trial, that campaign deputy Jeb S. Magruder appeared ready to perjure himself, that Magruder, former attorney general John N. Mitchell and presidential counsel John W. Dean III should be tried but "were being covered for," that his own telephone had been tapped since his arrest and he believed the government was lying when it denied responsibility for the tap.

January 14

The two met again at the same overlook, this time in the afternoon. Caulfield re-