

# McCord Gives a Lesson On How to Tap a Phone

5-23-73

NYT

WASHINGTON, May 22 — The Senate committee investigating the Watergate affair and a nationwide television audience were shown how to wiretap a telephone today by one of the most highly publicized wire tappers in the nation, James W. McCord Jr.

After receiving an assurance from the committee's chief counsel, Samuel Dash, that he would not be prosecuted "for this installation," McCord, a convicted burglar and conspirator in the Watergate case, described to the committee the procedure he used in tapping two telephones last spring at the Democratic National Committee's headquarters in the Watergate Hotel and office complex.

Working with an uncovered telephone receiver, McCord showed how the tap — consisting of a transmitter, two wires and a small antenna — was concealed within the telephone itself.

According to McCord, the two wires would be "interconnected in series with the wiring within the phone itself." The entire device, pow-

ered by the current in the telephone line, could be concealed "underneath the telephone mechanism," he said.

Responding to Mr. Dash, who is the author of a book on electronic surveillance, McCord said that such a tap could not be detected by either party during a telephone conversation.

McCord also said that, "under normal circumstances," the transmitter would continue to operate for several months.

Experts familiar with wiretapping devices estimate that the relatively unsophisticated device used by McCord would cost from \$30 to \$100. These experts emphasized that it was illegal for a private citizen to possess such a device.

McCord also described a receiver used by Alfred Baldwin to monitor the Watergate wiretaps from the Howard Johnson Hotel across the street. Calling the receiver a "very sophisticated and complex" one, McCord said the transmitter was intentionally "low-powered" to prevent anyone else from overhearing the conversations.