

# McCord Says Hunt and Liddy Made Plan

## ENDS TESTIMONY AFTER TWO DAYS

Watergate Conspirator Tells  
Senate Panel Target Was  
a Presidential Candidate

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WASHINGTON, May 22 — James W. McCord Jr., ending two days of testimony before the Senate committee investigating the Watergate case, told the committee today of plans to break into the office of a Las Vegas newspaper publisher and to use a plane owned by Howard R. Hughes to escape afterward.

McCord said that as far as he knew the burglary never took place. It was planned, he said, by G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt, two men who were convicted with McCord in January in the Watergate conspiracy.

McCord said that he had been told by Liddy that the publisher, Hank Greenspun of the Las Vegas Sun, had information in his safe that would be damaging to a Democratic Presidential candidate.

Except for relating plans for the proposed Las Vegas burglary, McCord expanded only slightly on his testimony of Friday, when he tried to explain why he had participated in the Watergate break-in and told of pressure on him to remain silent.

Senators and staff members seemed incredulous at some of McCord's remarks, not so much because they questioned his veracity but because they could not understand how he could have accepted so much on faith from Liddy and Hunt.

### Executive Clemency

At one point, McCord went to some lengths to explain how Hunt had allegedly tried to persuade him and others arrested in the Watergate break-in to plead guilty and keep silent in return for executive clemency. McCord said that he and the others had never asked Hunt who had given him the authority to make such an offer.

Senator Edward J. Gurney, Republican of Florida, then remarked:

"This would be a very important matter, pleading guilty and then serving a prison term and then, of course, being able to get out of the prison term by a pardon, and I am curious that no one thought to inquire where this was coming from other than from Hunt."

Weakly, almost inaudibly, McCord replied, "Yes sir."

Senator Herman E. Talmadge, Democrat of Georgia, expressed astonishment that McCord had received \$46,000 in "brand-new \$100 bills" from Hunt's wife after he was arrested but never asked about the source of the money or why it was paid in cash.

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## for Burglary at Las

## Vegas Newspaper

"Did not you think that was an unusual method of payment?" Senator Talmadge inquired.

Again, feebly, McCord responded, "Yes, sir."

McCord said that he first heard about plans for the Las Vegas burglary from Liddy in January or February, 1972.

### "Blackmail-type" Data

He said that Liddy had told him that the former Attorney General, John N. Mitchell, believed that Mr. Greenspun "had in his possession blackmail type information involving a Democratic candidate for President" and that Mr. Mitchell wanted the information.

McCord said that Liddy told him that the material was "in some way racketeer-related, indicating that if this candidate became President, the racketeers or national crime syndicate could have a control or influence over him as President."

McCord said that he now believes that Liddy was lying and that "there was, in reality, some other motive for wanting to get in Greenspun's safe."

McCord said that Liddy told him that, after the safe had been burglarized, "the entry team would go directly to an airport near Las Vegas where a Howard Hughes plane would be standing by to fly the team directly into a Central American country."

McCord was not asked and did not say when the proposed burglary never came off.

He did say that Liddy had told of handling a campaign contribution from Mr. Hughes, the billionaire, who is now reportedly living in England. Mr. Hughes is reported to have contributed \$100,000 to the Nixon campaign.

In another matter, Gerald Alch, McCord's original lawyer, asked the committee for time to testify tomorrow to rebut McCord's charge that he had urged his client to plead guilty in hope of receiving executive clemency.

A committee spokesman said that Mr. Alch was not on the witness list for tomorrow but could testify later.

### Sevareid in Hospital

Eric Sevareid of the Columbia Broadcasting System was admitted to the coronary care unit of a Queens hospital yesterday after becoming ill on a flight from Washington to La Guardia Airport. A spokesman for the Salvation Army's Booth Memorial Medical Center in Flushing said his condition was satisfactory.