

McCord Disputes Alch on Offer of Reduced Charges

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 3 —

James W. McCord Jr. contradicted his former lawyer, Gerald Alch, once more today — charging in a television interview that Mr. Alch had never told him that the Government was willing to reduce the charges against him if he testified in the Watergate case.

Mr. Alch said at the Senate Watergate hearings two weeks ago that Government prosecutors had come to him twice last fall and had offered to drop most charges against McCord stemming from the Watergate burglary if McCord would agree to testify against other conspirators. Mr. Alch told the Senate committee that the offers were related to McCord and that both times McCord had rejected them.

McCord was convicted in January of all the eight counts of burglary, eavesdropping and conspiracy with which he had been charged.

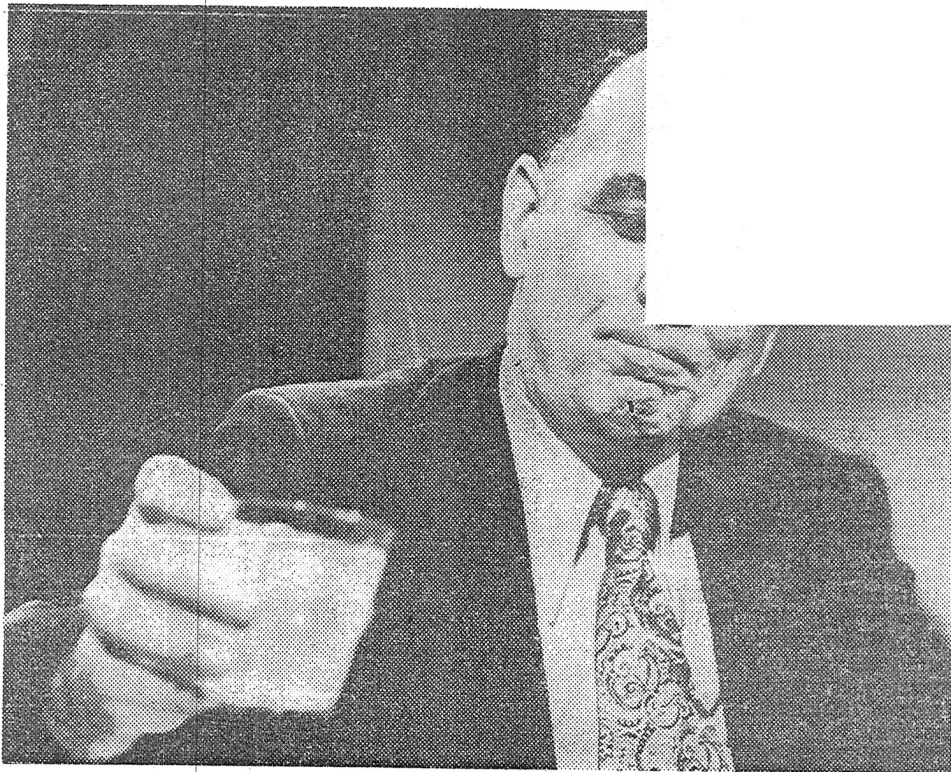
Rejection by Ervin

There were these other developments in the Watergate:

¶ Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., chairman of the Senate committee investigating the Watergate affair, said today that Archibald Cox, the special Watergate prosecutor, had suggested that further Senate hearings be postponed. Senator Ervin, a North Carolina Democrat, said he had rejected the suggestion.

¶ Robert S. Strauss, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said yesterday that his home in Dallas was broken into last summer and that he suspected "the same crowd" that had burglarized the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate Hotel.

¶ Six Governors said in a television interview today that President Nixon had suffered a serious loss of prestige as a result of Watergate but that the affair had resulted in greater



Associated Press

James W. McCord Jr. before his televised interview yesterday in Washington

respect for Congress and the judiciary.

¶ Time magazine reported that the Nixon Administration's special investigations unit, known as the "plumbers," had planned to break into the Brookings Institution here.

¶ Newsweek magazine reported that Robert C. Mardian, former head of the Justice Department's internal security division, had told Senate investigators that G. Gordon Liddy, one of those convicted in the Watergate conspiracy, had told him that the burglary at the office of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist had the "express approval of President Nixon."

¶ Newsweek also reported that Mr. Cox planned to dismiss "after a respectable grace period" the three assistant United States Attorneys who have

been handling the Watergate case for the past year.

McCord's comments today on the Columbia Broadcasting System program, "Face the Nation," added another point of conflict between him and Mr. Alch.

Denials by Alch

During the Senate hearings, McCord contended that Mr. Alch had tried to persuade him to plead guilty in return for executive clemency and had encouraged him to assert that the Watergate burglary was a Central Intelligence Agency plot.

Mr. Alch denied both of those allegations. In a telephone interview today, he also insisted that he had told McCord of both offers of reduced charges and that McCord had turned them down.

The question of whether Mc-

Cord knew that he could have pleaded guilty to a reduced number of charges if he agreed to testify bears heavily on his credibility as a witness.

Senators on the Watergate committee seemed impressed by most parts of McCord's testimony two weeks ago. But they were never able to obtain a satisfactory explanation of why he had waited so long before telling his version of the Watergate tale.

McCord acknowledged today that he had no direct evidence that associated President Nixon with either the Watergate break-in or any subsequent attempts at a cover-up. But he said that he firmly believed that the President "set in motion the Watergate operation, approved it and followed through on it."

McCord said that he based

been told of several meetings in which Mr. Mitchell participated and at which the Watergate burglary was planned.

But McCord also told the committee that, although he saw Mr. Mitchell many times during the period in which the operation was being conceived he had never asked the former Attorney General about it.

Meeting With Cox

Senator Ervin said today at a news conference in Boston, where he received an honorary degree from the Boston University law school, that he had turned down Mr. Cox's request for a delay in the hearings because "if the prosecution doesn't have enough after a year to convict, I do not think they should ask someone else to delay."

Mr. Ervin said that he met with Mr. Cox yesterday and that Mr. Cox had asked that hearings be postponed until after indictments had been returned in the Watergate case. Mr. Ervin said that might take two to four months. "The American people have a right to get to the bottom of this," he declared.

Mr. Strauss said yesterday in Stateline, Nev., where he was attending the National Governors Conference, that his home was broken into on a weekend about three weeks after the Watergate burglary.

He said that valuable furs and jewelry as well as papers had been strewn about his house but that nothing was stolen. "They weren't looking for jewelry or anything; they were looking for papers," said Mr. Strauss, who, at the time of the burglary, was treasurer of the Democratic party.

The six Governors who spoke about Watergate today on the National Broadcasting Company's program, "Meet the Press," were Democrats Marvin L. Mandel of Maryland, Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, George C. Wallace of Alabama and Mike O'Callaghan of Nevada and Republicans Linwood Holton of Virginia and Robert D. Ray of Iowa.

Governor Holton, chairman of the Republican Governors Association, urged President Nixon to hold a series of news conferences to "clarify the ambiguities as they come up" in the Watergate affair.