

Watergate Hurt McGovern, Former Party Chief Says

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WASHINGTON, June 12—Jean Westwood, the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has said that she believes Senator George McGovern would "very definitely" have had a better chance of winning the Presidency last year if the Watergate break-in and related incidents of sabotage had not taken place.

Mrs. Westwood, who headed the national committee during Senator McGovern's campaign, gave this opinion in a deposition in the three civil suits growing out of the Watergate incident in which the national committee is now involved.

Earlier in her 96-page statement, Mrs. Westwood was questioned about the response of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the discovery, in September, 1973, of a bug on the telephone of R. Spencer Oliver, a national committee staff member. She said that "the F.B.I.'s attitude at that point was that someone in our campaign must have put it there."