

# McCord May Pay

By Maxine Cheshire

Convicted Watergate burglar James W. McCord Jr., unable to find a book publisher who will let him tell his life story "my own way," is negotiating to print his saga at his own expense.

McCord's lawyer, Bernard Fensterwald, said this week that his client has gotten involved with a "vanity" publisher against the attorney's advice.

A "vanity" publisher isn't forced to consider whether a book will sell because a profit is guaranteed. The author pays the printing bill.

The irony is that McCord would probably have had little difficulty selling his memoirs to a reputable publisher for a five-figure advance if he had known enough about the book business to get an agent.

Kurt Singer, listed in Who's Who as the author of 76 books, mostly on espionage, worked for McCord as a CIA informant in the late 1950s. According to Singer, McCord has a good, personalized spy yarn to tell, even without Watergate.

Singer is selling his two years of correspondence with McCord at the Charles Hamilton autograph auction gallery in New York. The letters are an interesting curiosity even though a reader almost needs a code book to decipher them.

Repeatedly, the subject is money and how little McCord can afford to pay for such-and-such a project because of his tight budget.

According to Singer, McCord must have enjoyed working for "people with so many \$100 bills to throw around. When I knew him, he was always on a \$20-a-day per diem. He'd have to stay at the cheapest hotel in New York when he met me there."

## Potpourri

Frank Sinatra's constant companion, Barbara Marx, called Truman Capote's housekeeper in Palm Springs and asked for the name of a personal maid who liked to travel and "knows how to keep her mouth shut" Redskins running back Larry Brown  
Senate Dining Room the  
Sen. Ed P-