

ACLU Claims Watergate Trial Fraud

Washington

The American Civil Liberties Union yesterday moved to have the convictions of the seven Watergate trial defendants thrown out because they "resulted from . . . frauds upon the court."

The ACLU asked permission of U.S. District Court to file a brief in support of Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr.'s motion for directed acquittal or a new trial.

"Those convictions should be set aside and the defendants retried under a properly drawn indictment which charges all of those responsible for the Watergate conspiracy regardless of their station in life," the legal document said.

E. Howard Hunt and four of the men arrested inside Democratic Party headquarters June 17, 1972, pleaded guilty to conspiracy, burglary and illegal wiretapping. They await final sentence.

McCord, the fifth man arrested inside the Watergate complex offices, and G. Gordon Liddy stood trial and were convicted.
