

McCord Talking-- On Lecture Tour

Springfield, Ill.

Convicted Watergate conspirator James McCord is making a lecture tour to pay off legal fees and to tell the public the Watergate story "first hand."

"I've got an obligation to the public," McCord told a news conference at Sangamon State College. "I think if the public wants to hear the story they ought to hear it first hand."

The school's student association paid McCord \$2000 for his appearance, which included informal talks and a speech in the university cafeteria.

McCord told newsmen part of the reason for the tour was he needed money.

"My lawyers' fees are running between \$70,000 and \$100,000," McCord said. He added he has given about 20 speeches so far and has been asked to appear at about 40 colleges and universities.

MONEY

He declined to say how much money he has made from the lectures.

"You'll have to ask my booking agent. It isn't very much," he said.

McCord, 54, is a former CIA agent who was serving as security coordinator for the Nixon re-election committee when he and four other men were arrested last year inside the Democratic National Committee's head-

quarters in the Watergate office building.

He was convicted January 30 on eight counts of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping but has not yet been sentenced.

QUESTIONS

After the news conference, McCord answered questions before a group of about 150 students in a university hall.

He told the group Watergate may have had a beneficial effect on the nation.

"Many communities are looking around their own back yards to see if they have a mini-Watergate developing," he said.

McCord wrote to U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica on March 21 offering to tell what he knew about the Watergate break-in and coverup. His revelations have played a major role in the case.

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