

McCord's Letter to Sirica

"Thank you for the justice and mercy which you have shown me and the other defendants."

Thus began a letter from James W. McCord Jr., one of the Watergate burglars, to Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica who sentenced him to a prison term of one to five years.

"I believe the sentences were fair and just and that

consideration was shown to each of us," McCord said in the handwritten letter dated Nov. 21. It was filed in court yesterday.

McCord said his family's prayers are with the judge and his staff "from whom we have the greatest respect and admiration.

McCord stood trial in January with G. Gordon Liddy. They were convicted of con-

spiracy, burglary and illegal wiretapping. Liddy is under a sentence of 6-20 years and is serving an additional term for contempt of court.

The five other men indicted in the break-in of Democratic party headquarters were sentenced the same day as McCord. Four will be eligible for parole before Christmas.

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