

McCord Concludes President Approved Watergate Break-In

By ROBERT REINHOLD

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BOSTON, June 20—James W. McCord Jr., the convicted Watergate burglar, said today that he believed that President Nixon had personally "authorized and set in motion" the illegal entry into the Democratic National Committee offices two years ago.

"He authorized this operation by either a nod of the head or in some other way," Mr. McCord said, contending that the President had given at least tacit approval to spying plans offered by his subordinates. But Mr. McCord offered no direct evidence, saying that he had come to the conclusion "in the light of everything that has happened."

Mr. McCord, who is free pending appeal of his prison sentence of one to five years for his part in the burglary, was in Boston for a television interview this evening on WCVB-TV.

Mr. McCord, a former Central Intelligence Agency employe, was security director for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President when he was arrested in the Watergate offices of the Democrats. He became a central figure in the case last year when he wrote a letter to Federal District Judge John J. Sirica that

helped unweave the Watergate cover-up. He had said previously that he thought the President was directly involved in the cover-up, but in extending the charges today to the planning of the break-in, Mr. McCord painted this scenario:

Charles W. Colson former special counsel to the President was the link between Mr. Nixon and those who have been directly implicated in authorizing the burglary, among them former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, J. Stuart Magruder and G. Gordon Liddy, who directed the Republican spying activities.

"There were two calls by Colson to Magruder prior to the authorization of the operation," Mr. McCord said. "I personally am of the belief that Colson likely discussed with the President the operation before putting the pressure on Magruder to undertake it. I don't frankly think he would have done it without the President's backing."