



## Watergate Figure Called Firm on C.I.A. Reference

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WASHINGTON, May 23—Alfred C. Baldwin 3d, the former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent who monitored the Watergate wiretaps in 1972 insists that he used and meant the initials "C.I.A." in a recorded interview later given to United States District Court, his attorney said today.

Federal prosecutors told the court when the interview was submitted that the "C.I.A." references in the transcript should have read "C.R.P.," meaning the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and that Mr. Baldwin had told them that he misspoke in using "C.I.A."

Mr. Baldwin's attorney, Robert C. Mirto of New Haven, said in a telephone interview that he knew "for a fact" that no one from the United States Attorney's office here had consulted Mr. Baldwin about the purported discrepancy. Asked whether Mr. Baldwin has used the initials C.I.A. intentionally in the interview, Mr. Mirto replied, "Of course."

Mr. Mirto confirmed an account in today's Los Angeles Times that quoted Mr. Baldwin as saying "There's no way I would have ever told them"—two original Watergate prosecutors, Earl J. Silbert and Seymour Glanzer—"that I was saying 'C.R.P.' instead of 'C.I.A.'"

Mr. Baldwin could not be reached for comment.

The tape recording of the interview with Mr. Baldwin was made on Sept. 28, 1972, by Jack Nelson and Ronald J. Ostrow, two reporters in the Washington Bureau of the Los Angeles Times, which Mr. Nelson now heads. An account of

the interview was published by the newspaper a few days later.

In it, Mr. Baldwin described his role in recording the telephone conversations picked up by the wiretaps on the telephone of Lawrence F. O'Brien, the Democratic national chairman, and R. Spencer Oliver, a Democratic party official, from a listening post across the street from the Democrats' national headquarters.

The recording of the interview, nearly five hours long, was subsequently surrendered to John J. Sirica, then the chief judge of the United States District court here and the presiding judge at the first Watergate trial. The tape had been subpoenaed for Judge Sirica's court by some of the seven original Watergate defendants.

During the early trial, in which five of the seven men pleaded guilty to wiretapping and burglary charges and two were convicted by a jury, Mr. Glanzer, then the head of the fraud section of the United States Attorney's office here, told Judge Sirica that there were "a few typos"—typographical errors—in the transcript of the tape produced by a court reporter.

"Incidentally, your honor," Mr. Glanzer said referring to the transcript, "there are a few typos where it says C.I.A. It should be C.R.P."

Mr. Glanzer, who is now in private law practice here and who also could not be reached for comment, told Judge Sirica that he "sat down with Mr. Baldwin last night after court, and we went over this, and the reason I say there were these errors there is because he told

me that he never stated that."

Mr. Silbert, then the principal Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia and now President Ford's nominee to head that office, repeated to Judge Sirica later that day that he and Mr. Glanzer had reviewed the transcript and that "the language C.I.A. in the transcript was a misprint."

Mr. Silbert said today that he would not "comment one way or the other" on the question of Mr. Baldwin's veracity, and added that he could not now remember whether Mr. Baldwin had told him directly to substitute "C.I.P." for C.I.A., "but I know what Seymour told me Baldwin told him."

According to Mr. Nelson, the newsman, Mr. Baldwin made several unmistakable references to the intelligence agency during the interview, including a reference to the fact that James W. McCord Jr., a career intelligence agent who retired to work for the Nixon re-election committee, had spent 20 years in the C.I.A.

Last Tuesday Mr. Glanzer told the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is considering Mr. Silbert's pending nomination, that he and Mr. Baldwin and Charles Morgan Jr., the director of the national office of the American Civil Liberties Union here, had subsequently listened to the tape recording itself and discovered that he had made a "misstatement" to the court based on Mr. Baldwin's earlier alleged representation.

"It turned out that it was 'C.I.A.' rather than 'C.R.P.' and Mr. Baldwin so acknowledged to Mr. Morgan, in my presence, that he had made a mistake," Mr. Glanzer told the Senators.

But the Los Angeles Times account, as well as quoting Mr. Baldwin as saying that he never made the initial admission of error, added that he had never subsequently corrected any purported error before Mr.

Glanzer, Mr. Morgan or anyone else.

Mr. Morgan also said that no such correction had ever been mentioned in his presence.

Both Mr. Silbert and Mr. Glanzer told the Senate Committee that, in any event, they could not recall with certainty that they had ever corrected the misleading impression given to Judge Sirica that Mr. Baldwin had never mentioned the C.I.A. during the interview.

Mr. Glanzer added that he "was sensitive to the fact that there may have been an attempt to inject a phony defense that the C.I.A. was responsible" for some part of the Watergate incident, "because that kind of defense, spilled out in the courtroom subtly, is very difficult to deal with."

One of the references to the C.I.A. by Mr. Baldwin that fell within the purview of the prosecutors' remarks about typographical errors was his assertion that he would not "rule out" the "possibility" of C.I.A. involvement in the Watergate bugging.

Mr. Mirto said: "There was a very, very, very strong feeling on the Government's part and on our part at one time that this was a 'company,' or a C.I.A. operation. And there was a tremendous feeling on the part of the United States Attorneys that there was a good possibility that this might have been a C.I.A. operation."