

Kalmbach testified last week, "it was just as if I had been kicked in the stomach."

ANTHONY T. ULASEWICZ, 54, a former New York City policeman who later served as a private investigator for the White House, was the perfect witness for warm-weather TV viewing. A Runyonesque character, he described with deadpan humor his difficulties in "getting rid of all those cookies"—distributing the \$220,000 that Kalmbach channeled to him. The surreptitious payments included \$154,500 to E. Howard Hunt Jr. and his wife; \$8,000 to G. Gordon Liddy; \$29,900 to LaRue; and \$25,000 to William O. Bittman, Hunt's lawyer.

Getting rid of all those cookies proved to be no easy chore. For one thing, Ulasewicz was under orders from Kalmbach that he should not be seen by any of the people to whom he was delivering money. So, by prearrangement, he left packets of \$100 bills in office-building lobbies or airport luggage lockers. He was obliged to make so many phone calls from public booths that he finally took to wearing a bus driver's coin changer. Once, at the height of a skyjacking scare, he found himself in a line of passengers who were being carefully searched before boarding a plane. So he staged a coughing fit, quickly disappeared with his envelope full of \$100 bills and took a train instead.

In the beginning, Ulasewicz insisted,

he thought the payments were for "humanitarian" purposes, but he grew suspicious when Mrs. Hunt began to demand more money for herself and her husband as well as for the other defendants. "Something here is not kosher," he warned Kalmbach in August, and he said he would refuse to distribute any more money. (As it turned out, he made a final delivery in September at Kalmbach's request.) Asked whether he still felt that the payments were legitimate, he replied: "Not likely."

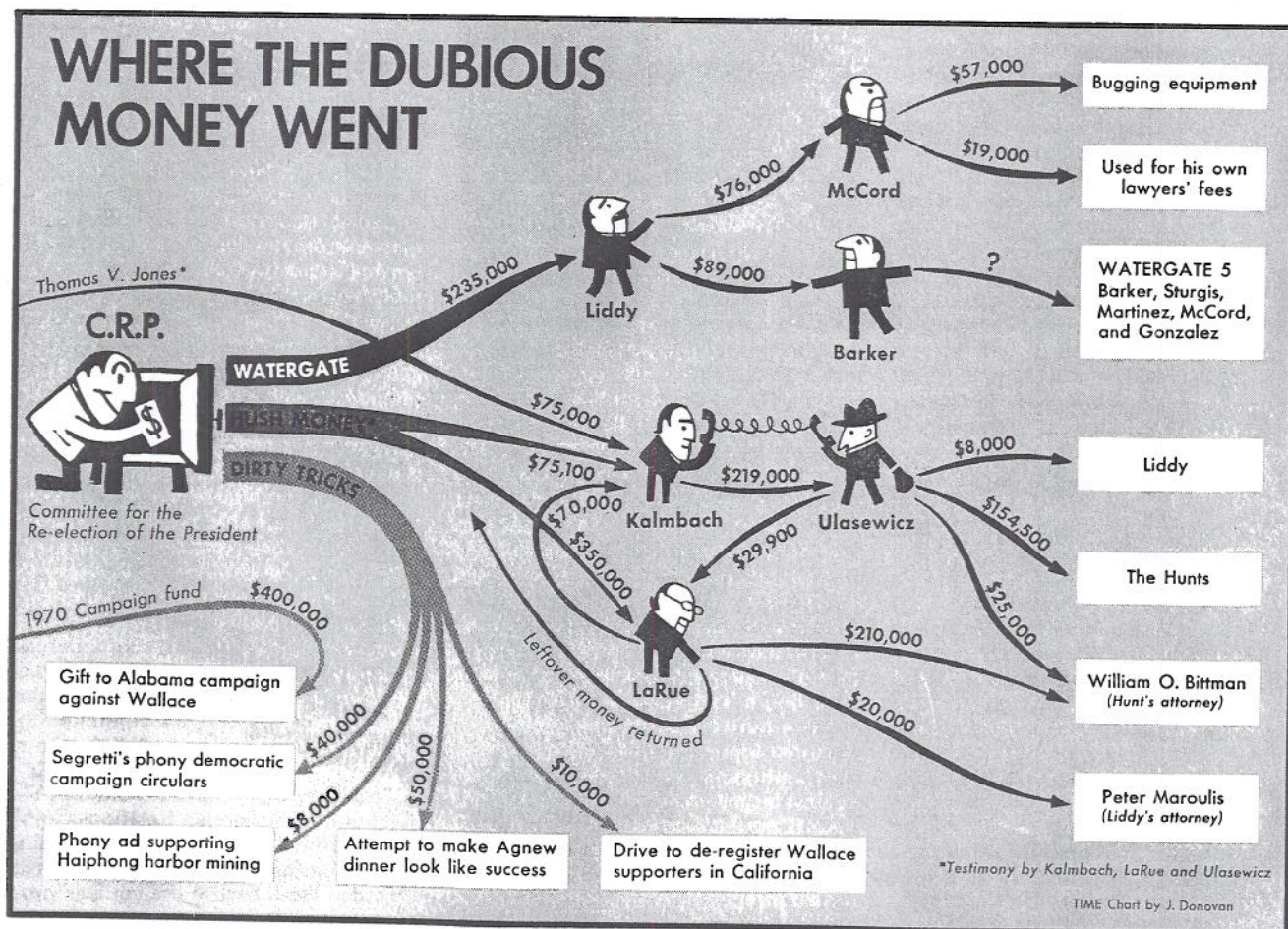
At first, committee members treated Ulasewicz as a welcome bit of comic relief. "Who thought you up?" asked Tennessee's Senator Howard Baker. "I don't know," replied a startled Ulasewicz. "Maybe my parents." But under a severe cross-examination by Connecticut's Lowell Weicker, Ulasewicz acknowledged that his duties on the White House staff had included the more sordid chores of the private eye: snooping into the domestic lives, sex habits, drinking problems and other "personal social activities" of the President's political opponents. "Would it be fair," asked Weicker, "to say you dealt in dirt at the direction of the White House?" Replied Ulasewicz: "Allegations of it, yes, sir." Then Weicker demanded that Ulasewicz tell him one by one the present whereabouts of the defendants, who are all in prison, and of Mrs. Hunt, who is dead. "I think what we see here," concluded Weicker grimly, "is not a joke but a very great tragedy."

FREDERICK C. LaRUE, 44, the former official of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President who has already pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiring to obstruct justice, described his distribution of \$230,000 to Watergate defendants and their lawyers, including \$210,000 to Bittman and \$20,000 to Peter Maroulis, Liddy's attorney. He never learned who ordered the payments, he maintained.

LaRue's testimony was somewhat damaging to his old friend John Mitchell. For example, LaRue failed to substantiate Mitchell's assertion that at the Key Biscayne meeting on March 30, 1972, at which Liddy's proposed bugging scheme for the election campaign was discussed, Mitchell rejected it on the spot. Instead, said LaRue, Mitchell replied in essence: "Well, this is not something that will have to be decided at this meeting."

Later, referring to a final payment of \$75,000 to the Watergate defendants, LaRue admitted that Mitchell was aware that this was "part of the grand cover-up scheme." LaRue also said that shortly after the Watergate break-in, he heard Mitchell imply that Jeb Magruder should destroy some incriminating files: "It might be a good idea," LaRue quoted Mitchell as saying, "if Mr. Magruder had a fire."

ROBERT C. MARDIAN, 49, a former assistant to John Mitchell both in the Justice Department and the C.R.P., took



exception to the previous testimony of at least five other witnesses. Examples: 1) Mardian recalled telling Mitchell that Liddy said Mitchell had approved of Liddy's \$250,000 eavesdropping scheme. Mitchell, insisted Mardian, "didn't deny it." 2) John Dean was "dead wrong," testified Mardian, in saying that Mardian had been given access to confidential FBI reports regarding the Watergate investigation. 3) He staunchly denied that he had taken part in a discussion concerning Jeb Magruder's plan to perjure himself before the Watergate grand jury.

Mardian insists that although he had little use for Liddy, he felt obliged as a counsel to the C.R.P. to protect the confidentiality of information entrusted to him by Liddy and other C.R.P. staff members. Describing a meeting with Liddy on June 20, 1972, Mardian recalled that Liddy had tried to convince him that the Watergate break-in could not be traced to officials of the C.R.P. because the five men arrested inside the Watergate were all "real pros" who had been involved in other "jobs."

Liddy, said Mardian, cited the 1971 illegal entry into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist. Mardian added that when he asked who had authorized the burglary of the doctor's office, Liddy may not have mentioned the President but gave Mardian the clear "impression" that Nixon was responsible. Liddy was so anxious to destroy evidence of his own involvement in the Watergate break-in, said Mardian, that he even shredded the wrappers from soap bars he had collected in various hotels, as well as several \$100 bills that might be identifiable as part of the campaign contributions.

GORDON STRACHAN, 30, former aide to H.R. Haldeman, was the week's final witness and had time only to make an opening statement. In it he testified that Haldeman was advised more than two months before the Watergate break-in that the C.R.P. had set up a "sophisticated political-intelligence-gathering system." Following the break-in, "after speaking to" Haldeman, Strachan said he destroyed several documents that might have proved embarrassing to the White House staff—including the memorandum that had informed Haldeman of the intelligence system.

Strachan declared to the committee that he would disclose further information when cross-examined that would be "politically embarrassing to me and the Administration." But he stopped short of implicating Haldeman in either the Watergate break-in or cover-up, and is likely to be a target of sharp interrogation on this and other subjects this week. But the questioning will probably be brief, since committee members are anxious to get to the big guns next in line: John Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman.

DEFENSE

Bombing Coverup

"American policy since [1954] has been to scrupulously respect the neutrality of the Cambodian people."

Thus President Nixon, in his April 30, 1970, television speech to the nation justifying the U.S. and South Vietnamese incursion into the Parrot's Beak of Cambodia, denied any previous American military action in the officially neutral kingdom of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. In fact, as a result of testimony by a former Air Force officer before the Senate Armed Services Committee last week, it was revealed that the President had for the previous 14 months personally authorized the secret bombing of Cambodia, a clandestine campaign by B-52s that poured over



FORMER MAJOR HAL M. KNIGHT TESTIFYING
Burned orders and doctored reports.

100,000 tons of explosives in 3,630 missions onto suspected North Vietnamese sanctuaries just across the border. The U.S. command hoped that the heavy bombing would disrupt otherwise safe staging areas used by the Communists for damaging attacks on American outposts in South Viet Nam. A secret "double entry" reporting technique was used by the Administration to hide the raids from the American people and Congress.

Former Air Force Major Hal M. Knight had served as an operations officer at a radar-guidance station in Bien Hoa, South Viet Nam, in 1970. He told the committee that he and others had doctored reports to make it appear that the Cambodian missions had been flown against targets in South Viet Nam. True reports on the Strategic Air Command bombing runs out of Guam or Thailand—as many as 407 in one month—were routed directly to President Nixon, National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger

and a small handful of top officials, bypassing the normally classified Pentagon record-keeping channels.

Although a few friendly congressional leaders, Senator Barry Goldwater for one, were apprised of the secret bomb runs, the Senate Armed Services Committee was repeatedly told that no bombs were dropped on Cambodia before the April 29 invasion into the Parrot's Beak. An official declassified Pentagon list of all American attacks in the area, provided Democratic Senator Harold E. Hughes this spring, showed "zero" bombing in Cambodia before the 1970 incursion. Last week Hughes called the false reporting system "official deception" and demanded the resignations of the responsible officials.

Finding them may not be easy. Melvin Laird, former Secretary of Defense, and General Earle G. Wheeler, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, both hastily denied having ordered the falsifications. Henry Kissinger also asserted no knowledge of the Air Force's peculiar reporting procedures. After considerable doubletalk, the Pentagon finally issued a public statement saying only that the falsification processes were "authorized and directed from Washington."

Sealed Orders. Whoever was responsible apparently did not feel that the Pentagon's normal channels of secrecy would sufficiently guard the Cambodia bombing. Major Knight said that bombing orders in sealed, unmarked envelopes were secretly flown from Saigon by propeller-driven courier aircraft each afternoon before a raid. They were kept under lock and key until dusk—the missions were flown at night to avoid detection—then transmitted by radio to the approaching B-52s.

Following each sortie, the radar-station crew worked up a set of precisely executed fictitious reports with false map coordinates for transmission to the normal reporting channels. The next morning, said Knight, he carefully burned all copies of the actual orders for the Cambodian targets in a special barrel outside his hutch. Then he telephoned a special contact number in Saigon to deliver an innocuous mission-accomplished code line: "The ball game is over."

Some Administration officials claim that the remarkable cloaking—euphemistically called "special security reporting procedures"—was necessary to placate the relatively powerless Prince Sihanouk, who allowed the North Vietnamese to operate freely in border areas he could not control but secretly acquiesced to the American bombing at the same time. But Knight's commanding officer once told him that the duplicity was designed to serve the political purpose of keeping Senator J. William Fulbright's dovish Foreign Relations Committee from finding out what was going on. The information would also have provided fresh fuel to the antiwar protest movement.