



McCord



Barker



Martinez



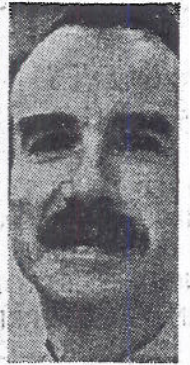
Sturgis



Gonzales



Hunt



Liddy

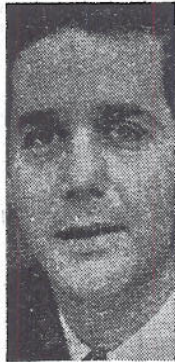
Part 6/17/77
Watergate Legacy
After 5 Years:
Fame, Disgrace

By Clay F. Richards
 United Press International

In those early days, their names rolled off the tongues of even the most casual observers of the American scene.

Mardian and McCord, LaRue and Liddy, Chapin and Colson—men who otherwise forever would have remained unknown toilers in the tangled vineyard that is official Washington.

A single word—Watergate—made these names suddenly famous.



Magruder



Dean



Colson



Mitchell



Ehrlichman



Haldeman



Nixon

Watergate.

To Ronald Ziegler, who spoke for Richard Nixon, Watergate was "a third-rate burglary."

To Charles Colson, who spoke for Richard Nixon, Watergate was merely an extension of what "all Presidents do."

To Richard Nixon himself, now in lonely exile in San Clemente, Calif., Watergate still is a "pipsqueak" operation.

To the Mardians and McCords, LaRues and Liddys, Chapins and Colsons, Watergate was their downfall.

To many it meant prison. To all it meant disgrace.

Today is the fifth anniversary of the break-in at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate Office Building.

The Democrats long since have moved. The Watergate now is one of the capitals prime tourist attractions.

The chain of events touched off by the burglary that

See ANNIVERSARY, A4, Col. 4

ANNIVERSARY, From AI

toppled a President is about to end—not with a whimper but with a bang.

John Newton Mitchell, once the nation's Attorney General and Nixon's campaign manager, will enter an Alabama jail in five days.

Harry Robbins Haldeman, once Nixon's White House chief of staff, will enter a California prison in five days.

That will close the legal book on Watergate.

More than 50 men have gone to jail since the original five burglars were arrested on the night of June 17, 1972. A score of Nixon's closest aides have completed jail terms. And to Gerald Ford, Nixon's acceptance of a full and complete pardon was an admission of guilt.

Congress has passed an extensive series of new election laws and continues to work on more. But no way has been found to prevent abuse of power by the White House without abridging the constitutional guarantees of a separation of powers. So there is no surety Watergate can't happen again.

But Congress has enacted laws making it illegal for presidential campaign aides to again run around with suitcases of \$100 bills to pay for dirty tricks.

The political "fat cats"—like insurance magnate W. Clement Stone, who gave \$2 million to the Nixon campaign—are under strict limits. Now they can only give \$1,000 to a candidate. The Treasury financed 65 per cent of the 1976 presidential election, the first time public funds were used.

As an indirect effect, "sunshine" laws have been enacted that opens the doors of once-secret government agency work to the press and the public.

And the scandal gave birth to a new era of journalism. Investigative reporters now swarm over stories such as President Carter's income tax audit—even when there is no indication of wrongdoing.

Nixon, by all reports of those close to him, is at peace with himself in San Clemente. He calls his resignation a fate worse than death, but consoles himself with daily golfing and recovers the fortune he lost in taxes and legal expenses by collecting large fees for his memoirs and his interviews with British television personality David Frost.

Breaking the 1,000 days of silence that followed his resignation, Nixon told Frost he went to the brink of the law, but never over it. To his mind, he committed no criminal act.

A Watergate grand jury named Nixon as an unindicted co-conspirator only after it was convinced by special prosecutor Leon Jaworski that a President could not be indicted while he occupied the Oval Office.

Watergate prosecutors have said in

their recent books that charges almost certainly would have been lodged against Nixon after his resignation had President Ford not pardoned him.

"Well, when the President does it, that means it is not illegal," Nixon told Frost, giving the bottom line of his defense. Yes, Nixon said, he had made some "mistakes of the heart" and had handled Watergate badly.

"I did not in my view commit an impeachable offense," he insisted. He said he "let the American people down and I have to carry that burden with me the rest of my life." But, he told his critics: "If they want me to get down and grovel on the floor. No. Never."

Though defiant in maintaining his innocence, Nixon said he has paid heavily for his mistakes.

"No one can know how it feels to resign the presidency of the United States," he lamented. "Resignation meant life without purpose as far as I was concerned."

Sixty-three men—including 20 former top Nixon aides—were charged with criminal activity. A total of 54 were convicted or pleaded guilty. Eight were acquitted or charges against them were dropped. One, Robert Vesco, fled the country.

In addition, 17 corporations pleaded guilty to making illegal contributions to the Nixon campaign.

The mystery man of Watergate, G. Gordon Liddy, is the only figure connected with the scandal to spend the fifth anniversary of the break-in in jail.

Liddy, an ex-FBI man, one of the original Watergate burglars and the mastermind of the White House "plumbers" unit, is the only one of the 63 persons indicted in connection with Watergate never to make a public statement about the scandal.

His silence so angered U.S. District

Court Judge John J. Sirica that he sentenced him to serve no less than eight years in prison. President Carter shortened it recently to time served—making Liddy eligible for freedom, if the federal parole board approves, on July 8.

It still is a mystery what Liddy, former Central Intelligence Agency man E. Howard Hunt, and a band of Cuban-Americans were seeking in Democratic headquarters that sultry night in 1972.

Nixon was certain of re-election. His campaign had carefully orchestrated a bag of dirty tricks that helped kill off the hopes of a tough opponent, Edmund S. Muskie, leaving the weaker George McGovern.

Explanations that the burglars were seeking information on Democratic campaign strategy and replacing defective telephone taps always rang hollow. The Cubans were told they were looking for evidence Fidel Castro was backing the Democratic candidate.

Theories abound. There was one that the burglars were trying to find out if Democratic National Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien, while working in public relations, had obtained a memo from multi-millionaire Howard Hughes proposing to "buy" a President for \$1 million.

But the five original burglars were caught and later the number reached seven with the addition of Hunt and another ex-CIA man, James McCord, who had been monitoring the break-in from a motel room across the street.

Watergate was costly.

The Senate Watergate committee spent \$1.5 million. The House Judiciary Committee impeachment proceedings cost another \$1.5 million. The special prosecutor's office spent \$8 million. No one knows how much was spent during the various stages of the Justice Department's investigations.