

F.P. Cook
9/14/77

Liddy adapting to freedom

WASHINGTON (AP) — G. Gordon Liddy, the silent Watergate conspirator, says he is adapting to freedom as quickly as he adapted to prison.

He's spending his time running races with his son, getting to know his wife again and being "very, very happy."

Dining with his wife, Frances, at a Washington restaurant Monday on his sixth day as a free man, Liddy, who plotted the Watergate break-in that deposed a president, talked about the joys of racing his 13-year-old son, being with his wife once again and trying to lose a cavalcade of reporters on the streets of New York.

"Yes, indeed, I am very very happy these days," said a smiling, relaxed Liddy.

Asked where he's headed, Liddy repeated the cryptic phrase he gave reporters after his release from federal prison in Danbury, Conn., Wednesday.

"East of the sun and west of the moon."

But now, he explained, east of the sun was the fancy hotel suite where he gave his first interviews last week, while west of the moon is an unidentified remote

spot where he and his wife could be alone for their first real honeymoon in 20 years of marriage.

Tanned and wearing a cord suit with striped tie, Liddy sipped brandy and posed with his wife for photographers, talking about the last several days.

"I was a bit surprised at how quickly one reaccommodates to a situation. I adapted to prison very rapidly and I adapted back to freedom very rapidly," said Liddy, crediting that to strict religious education and the adage: When in Rome do as the Romans do.

He said he and his wife had not watched last week's television mini-series "Washington Behind Closed Doors," based on the book, "The Company," by John Ehrlichman, a Watergate figure still in prison.

But he has found time to read newspapers, hard to come by in prison.

Asked if he saw any parallels between the Bert Lance affair and Watergate, Liddy pointed to "some elements of the media and Congress," who led to the destruction of Nixon.

But Liddy said it would be "presumptuous, immature and

imprudent" of him to make any judgment about Lance, President Carter's embattled budget director, because he did not have all the facts.

Liddy, the proud father, spoke of his children, especially 13-year-old Raymond, who beat him in a two-mile race by 10 yards.

"I was a little bit afraid that perhaps, because I just came out of prison, he might let me win," said Liddy, who is 46.

"But I was very pleased that he still had that same competitive fire. I tell my children, 'I don't care if you're competing against God — win!' Once I get back into shape, I'm going to take him."

There was almost glee in his voice as Liddy, the former FBI agent, recounted how, on the day he was released from prison he told his wife to "shake" the trailing cars of reporters and photographers. His wife kept signalling her turns, until he took the wheel and raced through the red lights of New York, "violating parole at least 13 times." After several high speed turns down a cemetery road, he finally lost them all in New Jersey.

"And that's the way I live," he said.