

Liddy tells his side of Watergate burglary

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NEW YORK (AP) — After a long silence, G. Gordon Liddy, the convicted conspirator who allegedly masterminded the 1972 Watergate break-in, has revealed details of his role in scandal — including fears of assassination for failing to carry out the burglary.

In the book, excerpted in this week's Time magazine, Liddy says he believed he was going to be killed on orders from the White House for failure to break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington.

The book also alleges Liddy was planning to kill newspaper columnist Jack Anderson because Anderson had published information which reportedly implicated a U.S. agent abroad.

But the plan was vetoed by Howard Hunt, Liddy's superior in the special White House political sabotage unit.

Liddy says an idea to drop LSD into Daniel Ellsberg's soup at a dinner party was foiled when White House aide Charles Colson delayed in approving the plan. The idea was to discredit the former Pentagon guerrilla war specialist who leaked classified

documents on the conduct of the war in Vietnam.

Liddy, who refused to plea bargain with prosecutors, served 52 months in jail, longer than any of the other 25 conspirators. He was released in September 1977.

Liddy says that when he was in prison, he suspected prisoners were going to kill him. So he armed himself, with the guards' permission, before turning in for the night.

"I lay down fully dressed except for shoes, and arranged the covers over me. In my right hand, lying alongside the right side of my body under the blanket, was the big ax handle. I could sweep that handle out in a second and knock two men off their feet by striking directly at their knees. In my left hand was the knife, and the pipe under my pillow. I was ready."

He wrote:

"The attack never materialized. No one wanted to be the first to die. They were afraid, never having learned what I taught myself as a boy: defeat the fear of death and welcome the death of fear."