

Liddy, Hunt Reported Near Site of Break-In

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The night of the Watergate break-in in June, two former White House aides with electronic listening devices were in a hotel across the street, according to sources close to the grand jury investigation.

G. Gordon Liddy, at that time counsel to the Finance Committee to Re-elect President Nixon, and E. Howard Hunt, former \$100-a-day White House consultant, were at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge at 2601 Virginia Ave. NW, according to the sources.

That night, across Virginia Avenue, James McCord, who

was then chief of security for the Nixon campaign committee, and four others were arrested inside Democratic headquarters.

In their possession were microphones and transmitters. Police also uncovered an electronic device in Hunt's office in the Executive Office Building, next to the White House.

There have been previous reports of activities at Howard Johnson's, but this is the first time it has been learned, from very reliable sources, that federal authorities have placed Liddy and Hunt in the building. FBI agents combed through hotel registration records shortly after the break-in.

The sources did not elaborate on the listening devices.

Liddy, an ex-FBI agent and former Treasury aide who was fired from his Nixon campaign post for failing to cooperate with the FBI on the Watergate probe, was a White House staffer last year, working under John Ehrlichman, Nixon's chief domestic policy adviser.

He and Hunt, a former CIA agent who served as a consultant to White House aide Charles W. Colson, worked together on Operation Intercept, an administration effort to stem the flow of marijuana from Mexico to the United States.

Trips Reported

The Star-News reported yes-

terday that Liddy and Hunt made several trips to Miami Beach before the June 17 break-in, apparently to confer with Bernard Barker, one of the men apprehended inside Democratic headquarters.

The General Accounting Office, in a report last week on its audit of Nixon campaign funds, said that \$114,000 in checks given to the campaign had been turned over to Liddy and cashed by Barker.

Anonymous Texas donors contributed \$89,000 of the sum, which was funneled to a Mexican bank which issued drafts. The drafts were cashed in Miami, with money coming from accounts in four other banks — Chase Manhattan and First National City in New York, Bank of America in San Francisco and Continental Illinois in Chicago.

Both Are Silent

Both Liddy and Hunt have refused to discuss the case with newsmen.

Authorities also have been attempting to piece together events after the arrest of Barker, McCord, who was fired by the GOP after the break-in, and the three other suspects. It is known that shortly after the arrests someone signed in at Hunt's public relations office about a mile from Howard Johnson's. The unidentified person used the name of a staff member who was out of town. Some phone calls may have been made.

Shortly afterward, an attorney, Douglas Caddy, arrived at police headquarters to represent the suspects.

A federal grand jury has been probing the Watergate incident, and indictments in the case are expected in two weeks.

In other developments yesterday, sources familiar with Liddy's work after he became an aide to Asst. Treasury Secretary Eugene Rossides in 1969 said Liddy departed from Treasury in 1971 after he made a speech to a National Rifle Association convention, agreeing with some of the association's proposals against gun controls. At Treasury, See WATERGATE, Page A-12

WATERGATE

2 Reported Near Break-In

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Rossides was trying to draw up gun control legislation.

Liddy had a meeting with Rossides, sources said, and there was a mutual agreement that he should find a job somewhere else. He quickly got one — at the White House, working under Ehrlichman.

Late last year, Liddy joined the Committee to Re-elect President Nixon as a counsel working with Jeb Magruder, a key aide to campaign manager John Mitchell, who has since resigned.

Meanwhile, Hugh Sloan, treasurer of the Finance Committee to Re-elect President Nixon, needed a lawyer to help rule on the complex new campaign disclosure law. Liddy was transferred to the finance committee as counsel, the job he lost for not cooperating in the Watergate probe.

Stans Confers

Liddy's ex-boss, GOP Finance Chairman Maurice Stans, spent much of yesterday conferring with aides to Rep. Wright Patman, D-Tex., chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee, which is conducting its own probe into an apparently secret \$350,000 cash fund that the GAO found Stans kept in his office safe.

Stans reportedly wanted assurances from the committee that his comments would not be leaked to the press. Patman told Stans, in a phone call from Texas, that he would get a copy of any report the same time the press did.

Yesterday's meeting on Capitol Hill was delayed while Stans reportedly took a call from Nixon.

GOP officials have repeatedly said they could not provide

details on the funds in question because both criminal and civil suits are pending. Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst criticized GAO for making its audit public because the constitutional rights of possible defendants might be damaged.

A GAO investigation of the other side was demanded yesterday by the GOP national chairman, Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas. He released a letter to GAO arguing that Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern's campaign aides "have conspired to obfuscate their true fund-raising actions by false and misleading filings . . . and have resorted to "devious coverups."

The director of GAO's Office of Federal Elections, Phillip Hughes, said he would give "serious" consideration to Dole's charges, and that Dem-

ocratic financial records already were being audited.

Dole's major charge was that a key McGovern backer, Stewart Mott, had contributed \$377,500 to the campaign, and that only \$38,000 in contributions and \$160,000 in loans had been reported.

McGovern's political director, Frank Mankiewicz, agreed that, in a report filed June 28, only the \$38,000 and \$160,000 figures had been listed. He said the next report, due Sept. 10, would show any further contributions.

Mankiewicz, referring to the GAO report on GOP finances and Dole's charges, said: "This is somewhat like a man caught on the street after a bank robbery with cash in a sack calling for the police to arrest a jaywalker."

In another development, the Justice Department criticized on grounds of conflict of interest because it had sought to represent Colson and Secret Service Agent Alfred Wong in a related civil suit, said it would not appeal a court decision ordering Colson and Wong to find private attorneys.

Mankiewicz, convinced the Watergate case could become a major scandal, has hired a former Justice Department prober, Walter Sheridan, to investigate. Sheridan has been writing a book about his efforts in former Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy's successful campaign to convict Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa.

2 'NUNS' FORGOT THEIR FOOTWEAR

ATMORE, Ala. (UPI) — Two prisoners who fashioned robes from dyed sheets and white cardboard, tried to escape from Holman Prison dressed as nuns yesterday but a guard noticed they were wearing men's shoes.

J.T. Daniel, 34, and Lorenzo Abbot, 49, both short and slim, were discovered after they had been let past one cell door and were walking down a hallway.

A spokesman at the maximum security prison said, however, that the men "were not close to getting out" since they had at least four more gates between them and freedom.

Weapons Burned

MT. HAGEN, New Guinea — Bows and arrows of two warring clans in the Western Highlands were ceremoniously burned here recently in an effort to end the fighting between them.