

Miami Photog's Story

2nd Break-in at

MIAMI — (AP) — State Attorney Richard Gerstein of Miami says the testimony of a photographer points to a second break-in of the Democratic National Headquarters where correspondence between party leaders was secretly filmed.

Gerstein said yesterday that a Miami commercial photographer had testified he developed prints of what appeared to be hand-written letters between Democratic leaders one week before five men were arrested inside the party's headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C.

Photographer Michael Richardson identified the men who paid him for the "special rush job" on June 10 as former CIA agent Bernard L. Barker and Frank Sturgis. Both were charged with the June 17 break-in at the Watergate.

"The only conclusion you can reasonably draw is there was another break-in at the Watergate or somewhere else where these people came into possession of

documents they shouldn't have had," said Gerstein, a Democrat who is running for re-election this fall.

'Nonpolitical'

Gerstein said his investigation of the Watergate affair is "continuing," but declined to say if formal charges would be filed. He said the probe was "totally nonpolitical."

Richardson was subpoenaed by Gerstein and gave a sworn statement last week. Gerstein said the 29 year old photographer passed a 2½-hour lie detector test yesterday "with flying colors."

However, the state attorney refused to say how Richardson's story came to his attention.

Martin Dardis, Gerstein's chief investigator, said only that Richardson's role came to light with a tip from an unidentified third party.

'Stuff Like That'

In his statement, Richardson said Barker and Sturgis came to his father's firm, Rich Photos, on June 10.

He said the two men described the photographs as "legal documents and notes, stuff like that."

But Richardson said when he began to develop the 8x10 prints, he started to suspect "some sort of hanky-panky."

He told investigators the 38 pictures from two rolls of 35mm film showed what appeared to be personal correspondence between Lawrence F. O'Brien, then chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and other Democratic leaders.

He said many of the letters were signed simply, "Larry."

Gloves Shown

Richardson testified he first thought the onion-skin copies were being held by "deformed hands" on a "deep shag rug" background. He said he later realized that the hands actually were covered by ill-fitting surgical gloves.

While he processed the film, Richardson said Barker and Sturgis waited across the street in a restau-

rant. Barker telephoned him "at least three times" demanding to know when the prints would be ready, he said.

Richardson said when he finished the job, "they were happy with the results . . . seems like they said somebody was going to be happy to see them."

Barker paid him \$93.30 for the prints, including a \$10 tip, Richardson said. He added he thought little else about the incident until June 19 when he saw Barker's picture in a newspaper as a suspect in the Watergate break-in.

'Saw Picture'

"I saw the pictures in the paper and wham, that's when everything jibed together," said Richardson. "I ran my fanny right down to the FBI. When I saw something wrong, I did something about it."

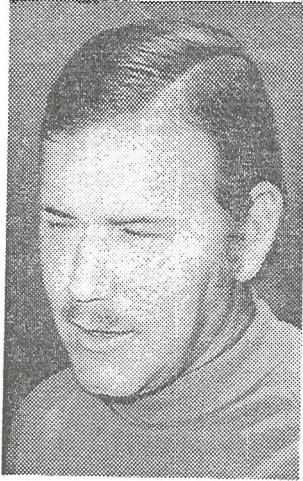
After giving the FBI Miami office his statement, Richardson said, "they told me I might be called to testify before a grand jury in Washington." But he said he has not been called yet.

Gerstein's office said the Dade County prosecutor's investigation was based on possible violations of Florida state law, including conspiracy in Dade County to commit a felony (the Watergate break-in).

A spokesman said the probe also involved possible violations of state law "in connection with checks that entered" Barker's bank account in Florida.



Demo Hq



MICHAEL RICHARDSON
Processed photos



RICHARD GERSTEIN
Prosecutor



BERNARD L. BARKER
New accusation