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Ex-CIA Man SF Examiner Tells Demo Raid Role

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — A central figure in the break-in of Democratic headquarters was quoted today as admitting his part in the affair but vowing never to give the reasons behind it or to implicate others.

Bernard Barker, a Cuban-born American who once worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, told the New York Times in an interview: "I was caught in national Democrat (headquarters) at 2:30 in the morning. I can't deny that."

'Old Enough'

But he said: "Just because I get in trouble, I don't want nobody else to get in trouble . . .

"I'm 55 years old, I'm old enough to know what I'm doing, and I have always faced up to all my responsibilities. And when the time comes, I will face up to whatever responsibility I have, and I won't cry in my beer and that will be the end of it.

"And, like I said, if I have to go to jail and so forth — well, I did 16 months in a German prison camp and this sure as hell isn't going to be as bad as that."

He said he had "always dealt with the paramilitary, the intelligence movement, the people who live by their word."

Police Duty

Barker, the Times said,

declined to discuss who hired him for the break-in at committee headquarters, or what its purpose was.

Barker served in the Cuban national police in 1947 or 1948. Shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and while a sophomore in civil engineering at the University of Havana, Barker volunteered for the U.S. Army.

He later went into the Army Air Corps and flew as a bombardier in Europe. His plane was shot down over Germany, he bailed out, and was imprisoned for 16 months.

Lawyer There

Barker, a registered Republican in Florida, was interviewed by the Times Friday night with his lawyer Henry B. Rothblatt present.

On Rothblatt's advice, he sidestepped a number of questions about his past both in Cuba and in Miami where he has lived since 1959.