

AP 5/24/73 (Ch. 7, p. 525)
BERNARD BARKER was the first afternoon witness. James Hamilton, the committee's assistant majority counsel questioning:

Q.—If you received no pay, Mr. Barker, what was your motivation for participating in, uh, these operations?

A.—The original operation was the Ellsberg operation. It was explained to me that this was a matter of national security. After this operation . . . the second operation . . . was on Mr. Hoover's death . . . and . . . this was an operation, uh, to give assistance and to infiltrate a group of persons that were at the Capitol stairs. The third operation was the first entry into the Watergate. There was a second entry in Watergate when . . . we were captured. At no time was I told any different from . . . the original motivation for which I had been recruited.

Q.—Mr. Barker, is it correct that . . . part of your motivation for participating in these operations was to gain later assistance from Mr. Hunt and others in high places for Cuban liberation operations . . . is that correct?

A.—Our team, which was composed of myself and Mr.

tratic campaign. Especially to Sen. McGovern . . . and possibly, also . . . to Sen. Kennedy.

Q.—Were you looking for documents that reflected contributions from any foreign government?

A.—The foreign government that now exists on the island of Cuba.

Q.—Were any documents of this particular type found during the first entry?

A.—No.

Q.—NOW, DID THERE come a time when you or yourself and the others arrested . . . receive certain monies from Mr. Hunt?

A.—That is true.

Q.—And would you tell the committee the total amount of the monies that you so received?

A.—The total amount of the money that I received, to the best of recollection, included, uh, approximately \$17,000 for . . . bail bond money, uh, between \$10,000 and \$12,000 for expenses for the period to cover that time until trial . . . and I received the amount of . . . to the best of my recollection . . . \$18,000 of which \$5,000 was for

Hunt required you to either plead guilty or to remain silent?

A.—There were absolutely no conditions and the answer to either a plea of guilty or to remain silent is . . . negative.

Q.—Mr. Barker, were any offers of executive clemency transmitted to you or threats communicated to you to induce you to remain silent?

A.—No.

Q.—Could you tell this committee why you chose to plead guilty?

A.—I was guilty. I was caught inside of the National Democratic Headquarters at 2:30 in the morning.

MINORITY Counsel Thompson questioning:

Q.—Haven't you stated that the manner in which the operation was carried out, the persons to whom you were responsible, your former superior Mr. Hunt, the manner in which you were taken care of financially all pointed toward the fact that it was a CIA operation?

A.—The methods utilized in the operation were the same methods utilized when I worked for Mr. Hunt in the Bay of Pigs invasion. This training I received with the rest of the Cubans from a government

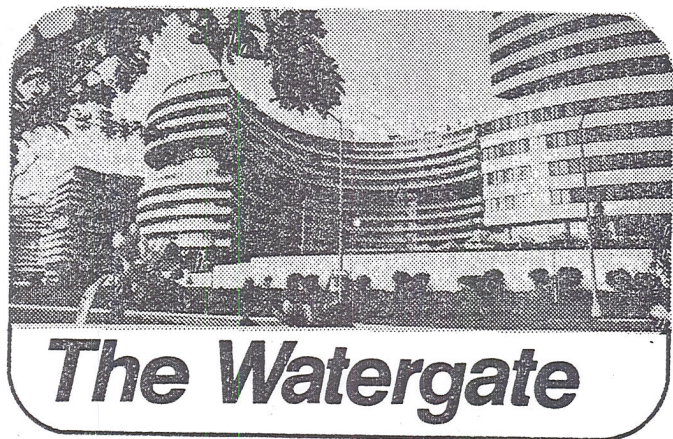
agent. This does not mean it was a CIA operation.

SEN. BAKER questioning:

Q.—[Stating Barker's background], then: What on earth would motivate you at your stage in life, with your background, to do something that surely you knew to be illegal?

A.—Senator, E. Howard Hunt, under the name of Eduardo, represents to the Cuban people their liberation. I can not deny my services, in the way it was proposed to me on a matter of national security, knowing that with my training I had personnel available for this type of operation. I could not deny this request, at the time.

Q.—What was the connection between the allegations of the Ellsberg situation and the imminent and pending break-in



Martinez, Mr. Sturgis and Mr. Gonzales . . . this was our prime motivation.

Q.—What sort of documents were you primarily looking for . . . in the Democratic headquarters?

A.—I was looking for documents that would involve contributions of a national and foreign nature to the Demo-

I think Mr. McCord's . . . un . . . uh . . . civil suit fee . . . Mr. Rothblatt . . . and the other \$13,000 was to cover for Mr. Rothblatt's fee for the four Cuban-Americans involved.

Q.—Now, Mr. Barker, were there any conditions attached to this money received from Mr.

(Ervin committee)

at the Democratic national committee headquarters at the Watergate complex?

A.—At that time, none. After that Ellsberg [operation] we came up on a matter involving security at the death of Mr. Hoover.

Q.—What did you come up with then?

A.—A group of persons demonstrating in front of the Capitol against the war in Viet Nam. The group included Mr. Ellsberg, Mr. Kunstler, and other persons who were there, which were long-haired hippy types.

Q.—Why, why would you do that? What would that have to do with your business in Florida or with your loyalty to the United States or your concern for the freedom of Cuba. Why would you be involved in the infiltration of a group that was there to demonstrate either [against] the war or in the presence of the last rites for J. Edgar Hoover. Why would you do that?

A.—I was following Mr. Hunt's instructions.

Q.—Did Mr. Hunt say why he wanted you to do that?

A.—As a matter of security. He said there was information these people would probably desecrate the tomb of Mr. Hoover. It was also told to me that these people would wave a Viet Cong flag. That if it was possible, get that flag away from them. It was not my decision. At that time I was assisting Mr. Hunt.

SEN. TALMADGE questioning:

Q.—How many times did you attempt to break-in to the Watergate before you succeeded?

A.—We made four tries . . . Two of which were successful.

SEN. INOUIE questioning:

Q.—Now, Mr. Baker, you're a wise man. If Mr. Hunt told you to keep silent would you not be guilty of an obstruction of justice?

A.—Pardon me for smiling, senator. But if I were a wise man, I wouldn't be sitting here.

SEN. MONTOYA questioning:

Q.—Now you stated in re-

sponse to Sen. Baker's question that you found no evidence in those documents that you saw of any contributions to the McGovern campaign or the Democratic National Committee from any foreign government and still you pursue the photography of the documents, did you not?

A.—That is correct.

Q.—Why did you?

A.—Because the documents that I read included names of persons and in one particular case there was a series of notations that appeared to be money notations and another document involved security . . .

Q.—Did it have the name of any foreign country?

A.—No sir.

Q.—Is it still in your opinion that what you did was in the interest of national security?

A.—“Today I am confused by all the information, but I see no reason to condemn the nature of the assignment as was given to me at that time.”

STATEMENT BY Barker at the conclusion of his testimony:

I think it is only fair before I leave here to say this: In a certain way the things I have said do not represent me as a person. I am part of a team of men of whom I am very proud to have been associated with. Mainly, I am speaking of my three associates from Miami. I think I have given a general description of Mr. Martinez. It is only fair now to state that Mr. Frank Sturgis, who by birth was Frank Fiorini, is a devoted anti-Communist fighter, who has fought against dictatorship not only on the left, but the right; that he was the first person to turn against Castro after helping him with his revolution; that he has made innumerable raids over Cuba; that he had been captured in a Honduras government try to infiltrate Cuba; that Mr. Gonzales was the member of the OA, which with an extensive background in the underground in Cuba; that all of these men are devoted family men who feel very deeply in a cause and that I am not here as a person but as part of a team. And that it would be unfair in my concept that these men

were considered in anything but the true light, in the things that they believe in; that we all outside of reprimands, in some cases by for Fiorini as having acted in these matters, that our greatest previous crimes before the Watergate, were just simple traffic violations.

That we are not criminal elements; that the word that a

newspaper recently said that we are the world's best known burglars, tho the word burglar we'll have to live with; that we resent very emotionally the words that we were hired; that there was no need to buy our silence. We are not for sale. And that this must be said because it represents our feelings. By this I don't mean that we are perfect, that we are not full of sorts of defects as persons; that we consider ourselves superior to anyone; that we are people very deeply feel that Cuba has a right to be independent. Thank you.