

# Bond Cut for Bugging Suspects

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By Bob Woodward  
and Jim Mann  
Washington Post Staff Writers

Bond was reduced yesterday for four of the five men arrested in the bugging attempt of Democratic National headquarters here early Saturday.

Their attorney said he expected the four to post the \$3,000 or \$4,000 now required and be released today.

Before yesterday's hearing, four of the five were required to post \$50,000 cash, and the fifth, \$30,000.

At the same time, the government prosecutor said the incident is being investigated along with others that are "perhaps related."

In other developments yesterday:

- President Nixon, in his first public comment on the bugging attempt, said, "the White House has had no involvement whatever in this particular incident."

- Joseph E. Mohbat, press secretary for the Democratic National Committee, said that he and party chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien had inadvertently given The Washington Post inaccurate information Wednesday. A diagram of O'Brien's Miami headquarters was not found among the suspects' belongings, and a file on O'Brien's personal and travel expenses is not missing from the Watergate offices of the party, as they had said, Mohbat reported.

- According to Miguel A. Suarez, Ameritas, the organization listed by four of the suspects when they checked into the Watergate Hotel, is a Florida corporation organized in 1969 to promote real estate projects. Suarez is a member of the corporation and a busi-

ness associate of one of the suspects.

At the bond hearing yesterday, Superior Court Judge James A. Belson did not lower the \$50,000 surety bond for Frank A. Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini, identified by columnist Jack Anderson as one of his sources.

U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert claimed that Sturgis was the most likely to flee if freed on bond. He said Sturgis, when arrested, had a document that appeared to be a Mexican passport. Additionally, Silbert claimed that Sturgis, owner of a salvage company, had concealed from the Court his part-time employment with a

corporation called Pan American Aluminum.

During the two-hour hearing, Silbert said that the bugging attempt may be connected to other similar incidents. "An investigation is going on into not only this episode, but others—perhaps related," Silbert told the Court. Wednesday, Washington police had said they and the FBI are seeking four more persons in connection with the incident.

Silbert also said that suspect James W. McCord Jr., the former security chief for President Nixon's re-election campaign committee, had traveled in recent months to New

Hampshire, Chicago and Miami. He did not elaborate.

McCord rented two apartments in Miami, Silbert said, but he did not give addresses.

McCord's bond was reduced from the previous \$30,000 to a cash bond requiring that only 10 per cent, or \$3,000, be posted for his release.

Besides McCord and Sturgis, the other three suspects, all Miami residents, are: Bernard L. Barker, a real estate agent who worked with the Central Intelligence Agency during the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion; Virgilio R. Gonzales, a locksmith; and Eugenio R. Martinez, a real estate agent

See INCIDENT, C5, Col. 1

## INCIDENT, From C1

with Barker and active in anti-Castro Cuban activities.

Previously, the three were being held on \$50,000 surety bond. Yesterday Belson reduced it to a type of \$40,000 cash bond requiring only that 10 per cent be posted for release.

All five suspects are charged in criminal complaints with second-degree burglary and attempted interception of telephone and other voice communication.

A preliminary hearing in the case is scheduled for next Thursday.

In Court yesterday, Silbert said that the five suspects would also probably soon be charged with violations of federal law. He did not specify what law or laws.

The five men were arrested about 2:20 a.m. Saturday inside Democratic National Headquarters, which occupies a 29-office suite on the sixth floor of the Watergate, at 2600 Virginia Ave. NW.

At the time, all were well-dressed, wearing rubber surgical gloves and armed with small tear-gas pens.

The suspects' attorney, Joseph A. Rafferty Jr., voiced strong objections at the hearing to a visit made Wednesday to D.C. jail by two FBI agents to interview his five clients.

He called the FBI visit "highly out of order." Rafferty

said only one of his clients allowed himself to be questioned.

Silbert said that it is perfectly proper for the FBI to question the suspects because the FBI agents are investigating other similar incidents. He noted that any statements made to the FBI could not be used against any of the suspects.

Meanwhile, the U.S. attorney's office here is devoting a virtually unprecedented amount of high-level talent to the investigation of the bugging case.

Silbert is the highest ranking aide to U.S. Attorney Harold H. Titus Jr.

He was the principal author of the D.C. crime bill of 1970, and was also recently the prosecutor in the trials of Heidi Fletcher, Lawrence Caldwell and Eros Timm, who were convicted of murdering a Washington policeman.

In addition, it was learned yesterday that the best-known prosecutor in the Washington area, Harold J. Sullivan, chief of the major crimes unit here, has also been working behind the scenes on the investigation of the bugging case.

Sullivan, a specialist in investigating major narcotics cases, murder conspiracies and other crimes, reportedly discussed the bugging case briefly with a federal grand jury early this week.

When asked yesterday whether he was working on

the case, he smiled, asked "What can I say?" and declined to comment. He also refused to say whether a grand jury is now meeting or whether it has heard any evidence.

Silbert and Sullivan are believed to be Titus' two closest confidantes. Both have worked closely on numerous occasions with the Justice Department. So far as is known, they have never before been assigned together to a specific case.

The suspects' first attorney, Douglas Caddy, sat in the back of the courtroom and did not participate in the arguments.

Caddy is a close friend of former White House consultant Howard E. Hunt Jr., whose name and home telephone number were listed in the address books of two of the suspects.

Hunt was hired as a White House consultant on the recommendation of Charles W. Colson, President Nixon's special counsel, who handles touchy political assignments.

Caddy told a reporter yesterday that he now represents the five suspects in the \$1 million civil suit the Democrats have filed against them and the Committee for the Re-election of the President in connection with the bugging attempt.

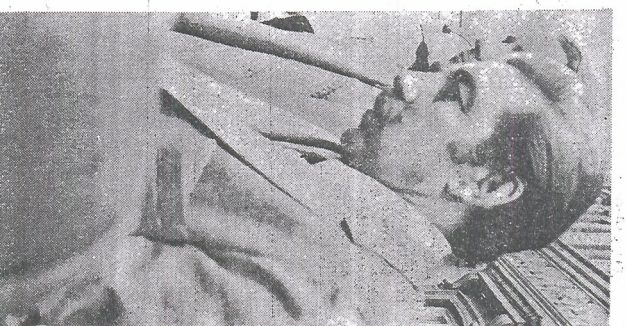
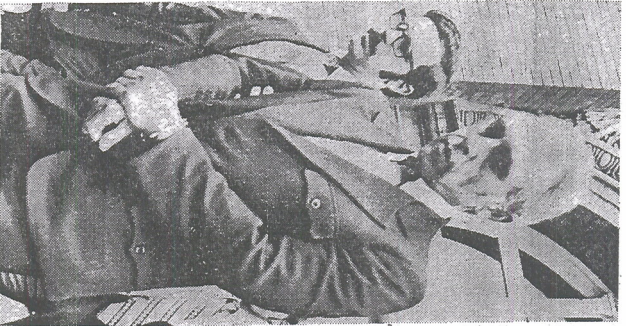
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FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1972



Suspects in Watergate bugging attempt, are led, handcuffed, out of Superior Court after bond hearing yesterday. They are, from left, James W. McCord Jr., Eugene R. Martinez, Frank A Sturgis, Bernard Barker, Virgilio Gonzalez.

By Arthur Ellis—The Washington Post