

Suspect Posts Bail; Judge Delays Release

D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Harold H. Greene refused yesterday to speed up the release of a defendant who had posted bond in the Democratic National Committee bugging case despite the "notoriety" of the case.

The defendant, Virgilio R. Gonzalez, posted \$4,000—10 per cent of a \$40,000 bond—at a 5 p.m. hearing before Judge Greene, but the judge said he was declining to release him due to the lateness of the hour and because other prisoners in court had already been returned to jail for the night.

Ignoring defense requests that a U.S. marshal make a special trip to bring Gonzalez from the jail to the court during the hearing, Greene said. "This case may have all kinds of notoriety, but to me it's like any other case. He's going to be treated like any other defendant."

Gonzalez's attorney, Henry B. Rothblatt, said, "A person should not be penalized by the mechanics of incarceration." He urged Greene to order Gonzalez's immediate release and said the defendant had already signed a court paper stating he was aware of the penalties for bond jumping.

Rothblatt told reporters after Green's final ruling,

"This is one of the most incredible bits of absurdity I've ever witnessed. Obviously the Bail Reform Act means nothing."

Defense attorneys sitting in the courtroom called Greene's ruling unusual.

Rothblatt said he hopes to have the remaining two defendants, Bernard Barker and Frank Sturgis, released "within a few days." Both are being held in lieu of \$50,000 bonds.

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