

1971 Proposal Reported

A Plan to Bug N.Y. Times

Washington

G. Gordon Liddy, a suspect in the Democratic headquarters bugging case, proposed during the 1971 Pentagon papers incident that the Justice Department bug the offices of the New York Times, an informed source said yesterday.

Liddy made the proposal last summer when he was serving as the White House coordinator for an inter-agency group set up by the administration to investigate leaks of government information.

Liddy was said to have approached Justice Department attorneys and proposed bugging the newspaper's offices, offering his plan as "a great idea" to discover who gave the secret documents to the newspaper.

When the attorneys ascertained that Liddy was serious, the informed source said, they stopped dealing with him. They did not men-

tion his suggestion to Robert C. Mardian, then head of the Justice Department's Internal Security division and now an official of the Committee to Re-Elect the President.

But when the bugging of the Democratic headquarters took place, one of the Justice Department attorneys learned that Liddy was working on the Nixon committee and told Mardian of the Pentagon papers incident. Mardian informed others at the committee, and the FBI was advised.

Mardian declined to comment on the incident yesterday. The committee fired Liddy as its financial counsel June 28 after he refused to answer FBI questions. He later refused to answer questions before the federal grand jury investigating the case.

The general accounting office said in a report Saturday that Liddy had a hand in financial transactions in which checks totaling \$114,-

000 in GOP campaign funds wound up in the bank account of Bernard L. Barker.

Barker, a Miami real estate broker, was arrested in the June 17 break-in at the Democratic committee headquarters.

In another development yesterday, records of The Committee to Re-Elect the President showed that FBI agents provided security for Martha Mitchell for up to two weeks after husband former Attorney General John N. Mitchell left government service. The records disclosed that the committee reimbursed two agents for \$243 in expenses, incurred on behalf of the Mitchells but did not pay the FBI for their salaries.

L. Patrick Gray III, acting FBI director, informed of this situation by the Los Angeles Times, said: "Of course it was improper. We're not in a good position."

He said he assumed the service was provided to the

Mitchells by his predecessor, the late J. Edgar Hoover, until the committee could arrange for private security.

The FBI men reimbursed by the Nixon committee were two Washington-based agents, Francis M. Mullen Jr., now with the bureau's inspection staff and Fred Woodworth. Neither agent would comment.

But Gray and Devan L. Shumway, spokesman for the Nixon committee, confirmed the details. Mullen was paid \$107.71 on July 19 for meals and other expenses he incurred for Mrs. Mitchell on a trip to Milwaukee from March 13 to 17.

Woodworth drew \$135.35 on July 26 for expenses he incurred on behalf of both Mitchells on a February 24-25 trip to New York, a February 29-March 6 trip to Key Biscayne and another New York trip March 10-12.

On these trips, the agents paid at least some of the Mitchells' expenses and were later reimbursed. Gray said that before Mitchell left the Justice Department his practice had been to personally reimburse the agents for expenses they incurred on his and his wife's behalf.

Mitchell resigned as attorney general effective March 1, but did not join the Nixon committee until April 9.

L.A. Times Service