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Attorney Released In Bugging Silence

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A lawyer held in contempt of court for refusing to answer grand jury questions about the Watergate bugging case has been freed for the moment after spending five hours in a federal court cell block.

Two judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals here late yesterday stayed the contempt finding against Douglas Caddy until a speeded-up hearing on his appeal can be held on Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, Chief U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica had ordered Caddy, who arranged counsel for the five suspects caught in Democratic party headquarters early June 17, held in custody until he answered the grand jury's questions.

After Caddy was taken from Sirica's courtroom by a marshal, his four lawyers worked the rest of the day to win his release and avoid a possible transfer of the attorney to D.C. Jail.

Caddy, 34, who has links to conservative Republican circles going back to 1960, so far has refused to tell the grand jury who asked him to arrange counsel for the suspects or whether he was called by a mysterious "Mr. X" the night the men were captured.

Prosecutors investigating the bugging incident have listed in court papers only as "Mr. X" someone they said Caddy has described as a "close personal friend" of former White House consultant E. Howard Hunt Jr.

Hunt, an ex-CIA agent hired for the White House job in 1971 on the recommendation of Charles W. Colson, special counsel to President Nixon, disappeared after the bugging suspects were caught.

In refusing to answer questions about "Mr. X" or other persons in the incident, Caddy

has claimed all of them as his legal clients, invoking the attorney-client privilege against testifying.

Sirica ruled on Wednesday that this did not apply to the type of questions put to Caddy before the grand jury and ordered him to talk. On advice of his lawyers, Caddy then again refused.

The prosecutors have claimed that Caddy "mysteriously" showed up at a police precinct house after the bugging suspects were arrested, although none of the five men made any call for help.

In addition to arguing that Caddy is misusing the attorney-client privilege to withhold information, the government told the Court of Appeals it considers his present appeal "frivolous."

Caddy's lawyers, to the contrary, assert the privilege against giving testimony has been properly invoked. Caddy claims to represent all five suspects, Hunt and the unidentified "Mr. X."

The Court of Appeals' order freeing Caddy was signed by Judges J. Skelly Wright and Carl McGowan.

In another development in the bugging case, attorney Edward Bennett Williams said he plans to file opposition Monday to a Republican move to put over action on a \$1 million suit until after the November election.

The suit was filed after the June 17 break-in by the Democratic party against the individual suspects and the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, for which one of the suspects worked.

The suspect, James W. McCord Jr., was employed as chief security officer for both the re-election committee and the GOP national committee. Both groups have denied involvement in the incident.