

A Chronology of Events in the Watergate Case: An F

Arrest of 5 Last June 17 Began National Scandal

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 30—Following is a chronology of major events in the Watergate case:

1972

June 17—Bernard L. Barker, James M. McCord, Frank A. Sturgis, Eugenio R. Martinez and Virgilio R. Gonzalez were arrested at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee and charged with burglary. They had eavesdropping equipment in their possession.

June 19—McCord ousted as chief security officer for the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

June 20—The Democratic National Committee chairman, Lawrence F. O'Brien, filed a \$1-million suit against the re-election committee.

June 28—G. Gordon Liddy, a lawyer for the re-election committee, was discharged by former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, chairman of the committee, for refusing to answer F.B.I. questions about the case.

July 1—Mr. Mitchell resigned as President Nixon's campaign manager. Clark MacGregor was named to succeed him.

July 13—A Washington lawyer, Douglas Caddy, who had briefly represented the five men arrested June 17, was found in contempt of court by District Court Judge John J. Sirica for refusing to answer a series of grand jury questions about the case.

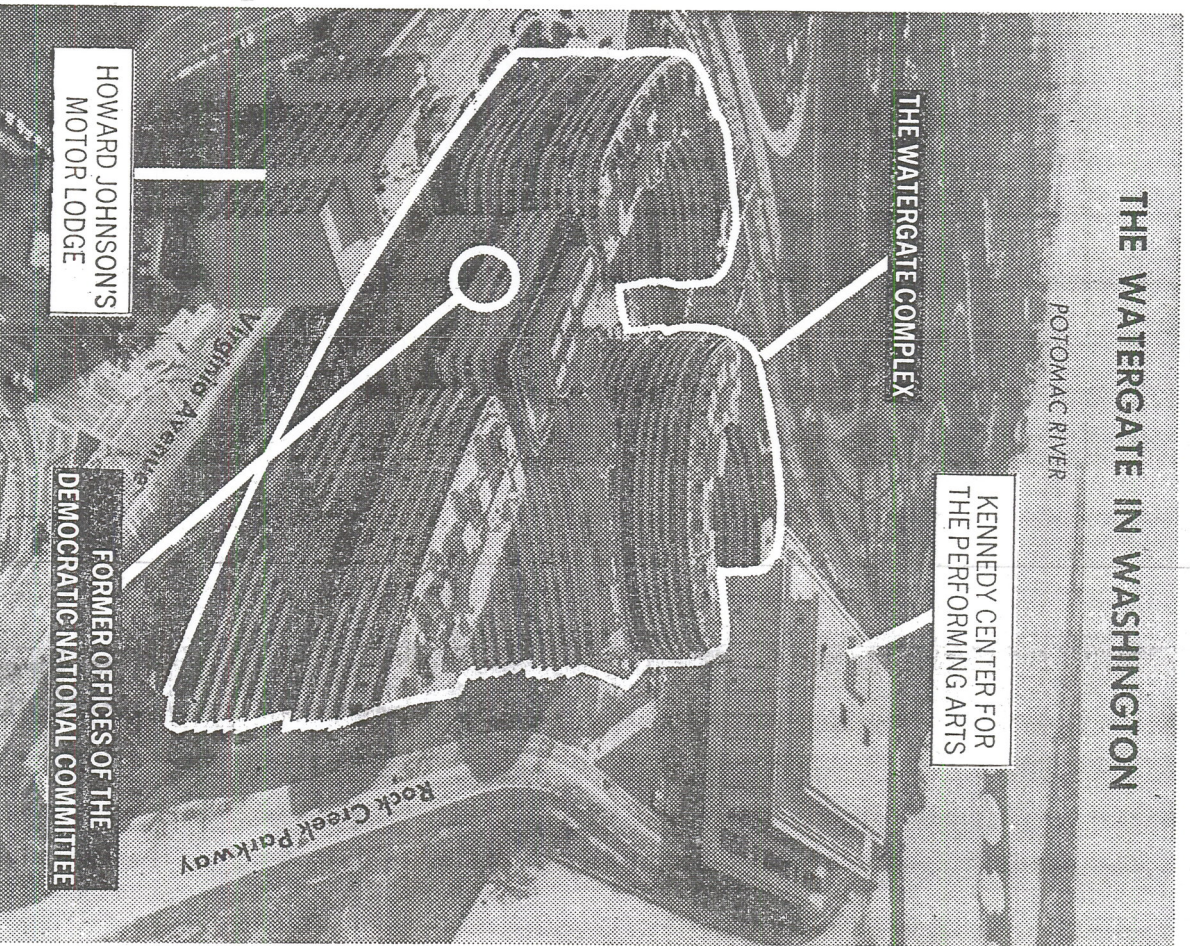
July 14—Hugh W. Sloan Jr., re-election committee treasurer resigned.

Aug. 19—Wright Patman, chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee, ordered a staff investigation of the case.

Aug. 26—General Accounting Office reported "apparent violations" of the Federal Election Campaign Act by the re-election committee.

Aug. 28—Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst promised that the Justice Department's investigation of the case would be "the most extensive, thorough and comprehensive investigation since the assassination of President Kennedy."

Aug. 29—President Nixon said in a news conference: "... no one in the White House staff, no one in this



Administration, presently employed, was involved. . . .”

Aug. 31—News reports indicated that Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former White House consultant, were in the Watergate complex the night of the break-in.

Sept. 2—Mr. Mitchell, testifying in the Democrats’ suit against the re-election committee, said he had no advance knowledge of the bugging incident.

Sept. 11—Barker admitted his role in the break-in, but wouldn’t implicate others. Democrats filed an amended complaint accusing Maurice H. Stans, Liddy, Sloan and Hunt of political espionage, in addition to the original five defendants.

Sept. 13—House Banking and Currency Committee staff report said that Mr. Stans had approved the transfer of \$100,000 in campaign funds through Mexico to conceal the identity of the donors. The re-election committee filed a \$2.5-million suit against the Democrats, charging that that the Democrats were abusing the court.

Sept. 14—Mr. Stans filed a \$5-million suit against Mr. O’Brien.

Sept. 15—A Federal grand jury returned an eight-count indictment against the five men arrested in the break-in and Liddy and Hunt. The charges including tapping telephones, planting electronic eavesdropping devices and stealing documents.

Sept. 20—News articles said that two re-election committee officials, Robert C. Mardian and Frederick La Rue, had destroyed financial records of the group after the bugging incident.

Sept. 21—Judge Charles A. Richey halted all proceedings in the Democrats’ suit against the re-election committee until completion of the criminal trial.

Sept. 29—It was reported that Mr. Mitchell controlled a secret fund that was used to gather information about the Democrats. He denied the article.

Oct. 3—The House Banking and Currency Committee voted against holding hearings on the case.

Oct. 5—News articles reported that Alfred C. Baldwin 3d, a former F.B.I. agent, delivered sets of eavesdropping logs to the re-election panel before the June 17 incident.

Oct. 6—It was reported that Mr. Baldwin had sent memos of wiretapping activities to William E. Timmons, assistant to the President for congressional relations, Robert C. Odle Jr., director of administration for the re-election committee and a former White House aide, and J. Glenn Sedam Jr., general counsel of the committee.

Oct. 10—News articles reported on a massive campaign of sabotage and intelligence directed by officials of the White House and the re-election committee. The Post said Donald H. Segretti, a former Treasury Department lawyer, recruited agents to sabotage the Democratic campaign. Among incidents of sabotage reported was that of a letter to The Manchester Union Leader accusing Senator Edmund S. Muskie of laughing at a description of Americans of French-Canadian descent as “Canucks.” The reports said that Ken W. Clawson, deputy director of White House communications, said he had written the letter.

Oct. 13—Senator Edward M. Kennedy, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practices, ordered a “preliminary inquiry” into the Watergate case.

Oct. 15—News articles said that Mr. Segretti was hired by Wwight L. Chapin, Mr. Nixon’s appointments secretary, and that Mr. Segretti was paid by the President’s personal lawyer, Herbert W. Kalmbach. It was reported that Mr. Segretti had called Mr. Chapin “a person I reported to in Washington.”

Oct. 18—Mr. Segretti made calls to Hunt, Mr. Chapin and the White House, news reports said.

Oct. 19—It was reported that Mr. Segretti tried to join the McGovern campaign.

Oct. 22—Justice Department files showed that Jeb Stuart Magruder, a re-election committee official, had authorized the expenditures for the Watergate bugging, news reports said.

Oct. 25—News stories, citing Federal investigators, said that H. R. Haldeman, the President’s chief of staff, was one of the officials authorized to approve payments from a secret campaign fund for espionage and sabotage.

Oct. 26—Clark MacGregor acknowledged that officials of the re-election group had controlled a special cash fund, but denied that the fund was used to sabotage the Democrat’s campaign. He named Mr. Magruder, Mr. Stans, Liddy and Herbert L. Porter as the men who controlled the fund.

Oct. 28—It was reported that Senator Edward Kennedy had been subpoenaing documents for his subcommittee’s investigation.

Oct. 29—There were news reports that Mr. Chapin had admitted to F.B.I. agents that he hire Mr. Segretti.

Nov. 1—Barker was convicted of falsely notarizing a signature on a \$25,000 check that had gone through the re-election group. The signature was that of Kenneth H. Dahlberg, chairman of the Minnesota Nixon Re-election Committee.

1973

Jan. 8—Criminal trial opened.

Jan. 10—Hunt pleaded guilty.

Jan. 11—Senator Sam Ervin agreed to head a Senate investigation of the Watergate case.

Jan. 15—Barker, Sturgis M. Martinez and Gonzalez plead guilty.

Jan. 30—Liddy and McCord were convicted of all charges.

Feb. 7—The Senate voted to set up a committee to investigate the Watergate case.

March 23—Judge Sirica disclosed a letter from McCord charging that higher-ups were involved, that there was perjury in the trial and that the defendants were pressured to plead guilty. Judge Sirica postponed sentencing for McCord, sentenced Liddy to six years, eight months, to 20 years.

March 24—McCord told Senate investigators that White House counsel John W. Dean 3d and Mr. Magruder knew about the bugging in advance.

April 3—Liddy was sentenced to 8 to 18 months for

contempt of court for refusing to answer grand jury questions.

April 17—President Nixon announced a new White House investigation after what he called “major developments.” His press secretary, Ronald Ziegler, said all previous White House statements on the subject were “inoperative.”

April 19—Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst removed himself from the investigation because of his “close personal and professional relationship” with some of the figures. Mr. Dean said he would not be a “scapegoat” in the case. Mr. Magruder was reported ready to testify that he helped plan the bugging with Mr. Dean and Mr. Mitchell.

April 20—Mr. Mitchell told reporters he had attended meetings where wiretapping was discussed, but did not approve plans. Mr. Dean was reported ready to testify that Mr. Haldeman and another White House aide, John D. Ehrlichman, worked on a cover-up.

April 23—The White House denied that Mr. Nixon knew of the bugging in advance.

April 25—Vice President Agnew said he had “full confidence” the President could clear up the case.

April 26—Mr. Magruder resigned as assistant to the Secretary of Commerce. Mr. Gray was reported as having burned documents belonging to Hunt at Mr. Dean’s request.

April 27—Mr. Gray resigned as acting chief of the F.B.I. The judge in the Pentagon papers case released information that Liddy and Hunt had burglarized the office of Daniel Ellsberg’s psychiatrist.