

F Post 5/14/73

Washington Merry-Go-Round by JACK ANDERSON



WASHINGTON — Of the hundreds of thousands in un-audited cash stashed in GOP safes across the country, there are whispers some money wound up in a secret bank account.

We have established that Alan MacQuoid, a minor Republican functionary in Los Angeles County, paid a mysterious call at the Swiss Credit Bank of Zurich on February 12. In two long-distance interviews, he admitted visiting the Swiss bank but refused to discuss the details except to say his business with the bank was "strictly personal."

He told us he was close to President Nixon's personal lawyer, Herbert Kalmbach, who kept around \$500,000 in Nixon campaign funds in a California bank account. At least some of this money, according to investigators, was used to pay for political spying and sabotage.

MacQuoid also acknowledged he had been in contact with other persons involved in the Watergate case but vigorously denied any involvement himself.

We asked MacQuoid specifically whether he served as a conduit for money used in the Watergate escapade or other espionage activities. He paused about 10 seconds and answered "no comment." He told my associate Jack Cloherly, however, that he had not had any previous dealings with the Swiss bank.

Our sources say MacQuoid flew to Switzerland ostensibly on a ski trip. He left Los Angeles on Scandinavian Airlines charter flight C-1219 with a group called "The Far West Ski Association" on February 10. He returned to Los Angeles on flight C-1225 on February 25.

Through an attorney, Kalmbach denied knowing MacQuoid.

Sources close to the Watergate investigation, meanwhile, tell us at least \$500,000 was spent in an attempt to hush up the scandal. Wiretapper James McCord alone deposited \$60,000 in a Riggs National Bank account immediately after the Watergate trial. Investigators say he collected, all told, around \$100,000.

As early as August 7,

Watergate ringleader G. Gordon Liddy's wife rented a safety deposit box at the Marine Midland Bank in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

She also left a padlocked trunk in the bank's "silver storage room." Branch manager George Harnen told us Mrs. Liddy "expressed concern as to who would have access to the safe deposit box." She asked specifically whether "the authorities" could get into the box or trunk. The FBI, however, hasn't yet contacted the bank about the Liddy deposits, Harnen told us.

Our story has also been confirmed that Mrs. E. Howard Hunt, the late wife of the other Watergate ringleader, handed out cash to the burglary-bugging squad. She was killed in a Chicago airliner crash, with \$10,000 in \$100 bills in her purse. Hunt told friends they intended to invest the money in a motel rather than keep it in a bank, where it could be easily traced.

Probably never in the history of American politics has so much loose cash been floating around.

The Watergate Follies, set to music, would make splendid comic opera. Here are just a few stranger-than-fiction episodes:

THE LEFT-HANDED PITCH: G. Gordon Liddy, the Watergate ringleader, tried to impress a couple of girls in Detroit by holding his hand over a flaming candle. His hand was so badly burned that it almost spoiled his Watergate presentation before Attorney General John Mitchell, White House counsel John Dean and campaign aide Jeb Stuart Magruder in Mitchell's office on February 4, 1972.

Liddy brought along huge, fancy charts to illustrate the bugging operation. Because he couldn't carry the cumbersome charts in his injured right hand, he juggled them awkwardly in his left. This trouble with the charts detracted from his otherwise slick, Madison Avenue-style presentation of the Watergate crime there in the citadel of law-and-order.

BUGGING ON CREDIT: President Nixon's fund raisers stashed millions in campaign boodle across the country, yet they still haven't paid for all the bugging equipment the Watergate wiretappers were

carrying when they were caught. The Committee to Re-Elect the President still owes \$13,600 to Michael Stevens, whose Chicago company supplied the buggers with sophisticated electronic devices. Some of the equipment was actually in use, but six custom-made, high frequency transmitters and receivers, four of them suitable for bugging rooms, the other two for intercepting phone conversations, were ordered but never picked up.

One of the conspirators, James surreptitiously came for some of the equipment at 3 o'clock one morning. Through his attorneys, McCord acknowledged the purchases and said he had paid \$5,400 in cash, leaving the balance due. Devan Shumway, spokesman for the President's committee, told us "it would be inappropriate to pay any such bill for equipment allegedly used for illegal purposes."

SPY IN A CLOSET: Whodunit writer E. Howard Hunt, another Watergate conspirator, was assigned to reconnoiter the Watergate layout. He tried to enter through a dining room, but couldn't get a connecting door open without alarming a guard.

So the ex-CIA agent remained locked in the dining room all night, sleeping in a closet. He

finally escaped at 7 a.m. after the office building was opened and began to fill with people.

ALIASES AND DISGUISES: The Three Stooges of the Watergate Follies — Liddy, Hunt and McCord — took elaborate precautions to conceal their nefarious activities. Hunt sometimes wore a preposterous red wig to go with his patrician looks. All three used assumed names, carried false identification, communicated by pay phones and exchanged cryptic messages.

Liddy's most successful pseudonym was "George," the real first name he never uses. One day, Watergate conspirator Bernard Barker called Liddy's White House office and asked for "George." Puzzled, Liddy's secretary said there was a phone call for George. "Just who is George?" demanded George

Gordon Liddy.

OLIVER'S SECRET:

Hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on the Watergate bugging and its consequences. Lost in all the hullabaloo has been the intelligence that the Republicans got for their money.

A wiretap was successfully installed on the office phone of Democratic party official Spencer Oliver. The first problem was that there were two Spencer Olivers, father and son. The most momentous information picked up by the wiretappers was that one of the Spencer Olivers was planning a trip to either North Carolina or South Carolina to talk to North Carolina's former governor, Terry Sanford.

DAY AFTER WATERGATE:

On the eve of their arrest, the Watergate burglary-bugging crew had trouble gaining access to Democratic headquarters. Bernard Barker telephoned a cryptic message to Liddy that he was having key trouble. Trouble with the "car key," he added mysteriously.

Nevertheless, the crew broke into the Democratic lair and was arrested at gunpoint at 2:30 in the morning. The news caused panic inside the President's campaign headquarters. Liddy phoned press chief Devan Shumway to explain they had a minor "public relations problem" at the Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

As the news spread, officials began removing and destroying sensitive documents. Liddy began churning documents through a small shredder, then rushed upstairs to a larger shredder that would do the job faster. His secretary, Sally Harmony, even shredded her shorthand notebooks eventually.

Other officials, not knowing the President's campaign security chief James McCord had led the burglary squad, discussed whether burglars could break into their headquarters. Not a chance, campaign administrator Robert Odle assured them. He told them he had brought in an experienced security man to equip every nook and cranny with antibreak-in devices. What was the man's name? Jim McCord, Odle told them proudly.

STRANGE BOOKKEEPING:

The stolid McCord, the ultimate bureaucrat, tried to give Hunt's wife a receipt when she delivered hush money to him in an envelope. Even Liddy signed small white chits with a special mark when he withdrew cash from the committee.

But former White House aide Gordon Strachan delivered \$350,000 in \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills to the Watergate apartment of campaign official Fred LaRue. No receipt was asked and none was given.