

BUGGING 2-2

NIGHT LD

BY JANE DENISON

WASHINGTON (UPI) --WATERGATE TRIAL JUDGE JOHN J. SIRICA REVEALED FRIDAY HE HAS SUGGESTED THE NAMES OF "SEVERAL" PERSONS TO BE CALLED BEFORE A GRAND JURY FOR QUESTIONING ABOUT POLITICAL ESPIONAGE AGAINST TOP DEMOCRATS LAST YEAR.

SIRICA, SPEAKING BLUNTLY FROM THE BENCH, NAMED NO NAMES AND SAID HE WOULD CITE FOR CONTEMPT ANYONE WHO DISCLOSED THEM. BUT HE LEFT NO DOUBT HE FELT HUGH W. SLOAN JR., FORMER TREASURER OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN, WAS AMONG THOSE WHO HAS VITAL INFORMATION.

"I HAVE GREAT DOUBTS WHETHER MR. SLOAN HAS TOLD US THE ENTIRE TRUTH IN THE CASE," SIRICA SAID. "I'LL SAY IT NOW AND I INDICATED THAT DURING THE TRIAL. YOU UNDERSTAND?"

SLOAN WAS A KEY PROSECUTION WITNESS IN THE WATERGATE TRIAL THAT CONCLUDED LAST TUESDAY WITH THE CONVICTION OF TWO OTHER NIXON CAMPAIGN OFFICIALS, G. GORDON LIDDY AND JAMES W. MCCORD JR., ON ALL COUNTS OF CONSPIRACY, BURGLARY, BUGGING AND WIRETAPPING AGAINST THEM.

SIRICA UNLOADED HIS FEELINGS ABOUT THE COMPLEX CASE BEFORE ORDERING THAT LIDDY AND MCCORD BE KEPT IN JAIL PENDING SENTENCING UNLESS THEY POST \$100,000 SURETY BOND EACH.

LIDDY'S LAWYER SAID HE COULD NOT MAKE THE BOND, BUT MCCORD'S SAID HE WOULD "GIVE IT A TRY." BOTH WERE EXPECTED TO APPEAL THE BOND RULING MONDAY.

THE BOND WAS THE SAME AS HE SET EARLIER FOR FIVE OTHER MEN WHO PLEADED GUILTY IN THE SPY SPLOT, WHICH CULMINATED IN A BREAK-IN AND BUGGING AT THE WATERGATE OFFICES OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE LAST JUNE 17. ONLY ONE -- FORMER WHITE HOUSE CONSULTANT E. HOWARD HUNT JR. -- HAS MADE BOND.

NONE TESTIFIED AT THE TRIAL, BUT ALL ARE EXPECTED TO BE SUMMONED BEFORE A GRAND JURY TO TELL WHAT THEY KNOW. SIRICA SAID HE HAD SUGGESTED, AT A SECRET MEETING WITH PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE ATTORNEYS JAN. 24, SOME OTHER POSSIBLE WITNESSES.

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"AT THAT TIME, I GAVE THE GOVERNMENT SEVERAL NAMES OF PERSONS I THOUGHT SHOULD BE CALLED BEFORE THE GRAND JURY TO TESTIFY ABOUT WHAT THEY KNOW ABOUT THIS CASE . . .," SIRICA SAID. "SOME HAD PREVIOUSLY COME BEFORE THE GRAND JURY AND SOME HAD NOT. I HAVE KEPT THEIR NAMES ENTIRELY CONFIDENTIAL. I HOPE THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACTED OR WILL ACT ON MY SUGGESTIONS."

SIRICA, WHO IS CHIEF JUDGE OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT HERE, SAID HE MADE THE RECOMMENDATIONS AFTER LISTENING TO TESTIMONY AND AFTER HEARING A TAPE RECORDING OF A FIVE-HOUR INTERVIEW THE GOVERNMENT'S STAR WITNESS, ALFRED C. BALDWIN III, GAVE THE LOS ANGELES TIMES LAST FALL.

BALDWIN, WHO HAS BEEN PROMISED IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION, TESTIFIED AT THE TRIAL HE LISTENED TO SOME 200 CONVERSATIONS OVER TAPPED TELEPHONES AT DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS.

SIRICA SAID HE WAS "NOT SATISFIED" THAT THE PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE HAD BROUGHT OUT THE WHOLE WATERGATE STORY AND SAID IT WOULD PROBABLY BE UP TO CONGRESS TO DO IT.

"I WOULD HOPE, SPEAKING FRANKLY AS A CITIZEN, ONE OF THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS LOOKING FOR CERTAIN ANSWERS, I WOULD HOPE THAT THE SENATE COMMITTEE WILL BE GRANTED ALL THE POWER BY CONGRESS IT NEEDS TO TRY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THIS CASE," SIRICA SAID.

SLOAN TESTIFIED HE HAD GIVEN LIDDY \$199,000 IN CAMPAIGN FUNDS ON ORDERS FROM HIGHER-UPS. UNDER SIRICA'S GRILLING, HE SAID HE "HAD NO IDEA" WHAT THE MONEY WAS FOR.

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INSERT NIGHT LD BUGGING WASHINGTON 231A AFTER 4TH PGH XXX AGAINST THEM.

PROSECUTOR EARL J. SILBERT SAID LATER IN AN INTERVIEW THE JUDGE HAD SUGGESTED SIX PERSONS AS POSSIBLE GRAND JURY WITNESSES AND ALL BUT ONE OF THEM HAD ALREADY APPEARED BEFORE THE GRAND JURY FROM ONE TO SIX TIMES. HE SAID IF ANY "NEW INFORMATION" WAS DEVELOPED -- EITHER BY THE CONTINUING FBI INVESTIGATION OR FROM THE TESTIMONY OF THE SO-CALLED WATERGATE SEVEN -- IT WOULD BE FOLLOWED UP BY THE GRAND JURY.

SILBERT ALSO REITERATED WHAT HE SAID DURING THE TRIAL -- THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS "NO EVIDENCE" IMPLICATING ANY HIGHER OFFICIALS IN THE NIXON CAMPAIGN IN THE SPY PLOT.

PICKUP 5TH PGH: SIRICA UNLOADED

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