

# 4 more plead guilty at Dem bugging trial

By William J. Eaton  
Of Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Four more defendants in the Watergate trial pleaded guilty Monday to spying on Democratic headquarters but denied knowing any other "higher-ups" in the espionage effort.

The four men, all from Miami, each face a maximum sentence of 55 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine. Bond was set at \$100,000 each.

The switch of pleas left only two defendants on trial. Both planned to seek a mistrial.

A former White House consultant, E. Howard Hunt, pleaded guilty last week to similar conspiracy, burglary and eavesdropping charges.

ONE OF THE Miamians, Frank Sturgis, gave this explanation for the Watergate spying:

"When it comes to Cuba and a Communist conspiracy against the United States, I will do anything to protect my country."

Entering guilty pleas Monday were:

- **Sturgis, 48**, a former follower of Fidel Castro who broke with the Communist regime in Cuba and has fought against Castro since.
- **Bernard L. Barker, 55**, Havana-born American, who reportedly played a leading role in the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, crushed by Castro.
- **Eugenio Martinez, 50**, a real estate salesman who worked for Barker. Martinez fled Cuba after the Castro take-over and became a leader of the exile community in Miami.
- **Virgilio Gonzalez, 46**, a

locksmith, also Cuban-born, and long-time friend of Martinez.

The four Miami men discharged their attorney, Henry B. Rothblatt, because he refused to represent them if they wished to plead guilty.

FEDERAL COURT Judge John J. Sirica appointed a Washington lawyer, Alvin Newmyer, to represent the Miami men in changing pleas.

Sirica, who has said several times that he wanted to find out the motive for the Watergate break-in and bugging, peppered the four Miamians with questions, but discovered little new about the case.

Barker insisted that he never knew where thousands of dollars of expense money came from, telling the judge: "I got the money in the mail in a blank envelope."

"I'm sorry to say I don't believe you," Sirica told him.

THE OTHER defendants

Turn to Back Page, this section

# More plead guilty to Dem spying

Continued from Page 1

were equally vague about the origin of the Watergate project.

Barker said Hunt contacted him about a month before the June 17 arrest of five of the defendants at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate complex, and the others said they accepted Barker's instructions with "no questions asked."

Martinez, asked if he ever worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, quickly replied: "Not that I know." Barker gave exactly the same answer to the CIA question.

Hunt was a 20-year veteran of the CIA and another defendant, James W. McCord, is a retired CIA executive who was security chief for President Nixon's re-election committee at the time of the alleged espionage.

The other defendant, G. Gordon Liddy, was general counsel to the finance subcommittee of the Nixon campaign organization.

IN HIS questioning, Sirica asked whether the men were being paid any money or offered payments if they would plead guilty. They all denied receiving any money from anyone.

The Miamians also said they had not been promised short prison sentences or presidential clemency if they would plead guilty and avoid a trial.



Eugenio R. Martinez (left) and Frank Sturgis (right) arrive Monday at court where they pleaded guilty to charges of burglarizing and bugging Democratic National Headquarters last year. With them is attorney Henry Rothblatt. (UPI)



Bernard L. Barker (left) and Virgilio R. Gonzales, who also pleaded guilty in Washington's U.S. District Court Monday.

They also denied newspaper reports that they were assured their families would be taken care of if they went to prison.

SIRICA began his rapid-fire questions by telling the four men, standing in front of the bench, to tell the truth.

"Don't pull any punches," the judge said. "Anybody in-

involved who shouldn't be involved — I want to know it, and the grand jury will want to know it."

The U.S. prosecutor, Earl J. Silbert, said previously that Hunt would be questioned before the Watergate grand jury about possible "higher-ups" involved in the plot against the Democrats.

When the judge asked Martinez if he was aware of any other participants not on trial, the defendant interrupted before the question was completed to shout:

"No, I don't, your honor."

The other three Miami men gave similar answers.

THE JUDGE asked Barker how \$14,000 in checks, supposedly intended for the Nixon re-election committee, wound up in Barker's bank account.

Barker said he changed the money into cash, according to his "orders," and sent it by mail, adding that:

"I never used one cent of that money."

He was not asked who gave the orders or who got the mailed cash.

All four of the men said they were not paid for their spying but received expenses, obviously hundreds of dollars each, for airplane tickets, hotels and meals.

Barker insisted that he did not know the source of the expense money.