

More Watergate Defendants Expected To Plead Guilty

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The Watergate trial, dogged from the start by rumors and developments out of the jury's hearing, goes into the second week

Monday with the expectation that four more defendants want to plead guilty.

If they do so, it will be against the advice of their lawyer, Henry B. Rothblatt of New York, who says he will resign first.

"What have they got to gain by pleading guilty?" Rothblatt said Sunday. "They'll go to jail, they'll waive their constitutional right to appeal and they will serve as many years in prison as the judge orders."

"How can any intelligent lawyer be a party to bluntly destroying all legal and constitutional rights of his clients?"

Rothblatt represents Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez, Fran A. Sturgis and Virgilio R. Gonzalez, all from Miami and all charged in seven counts with conspiracy, burglary and attempting to bug the offices of the Democratic National Committee in the Watergate complex.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of 55 years in prison and \$50,000 fines.

It was understood that the other two defendants, G. Gordon Liddy, 42, and James W. McCord Jr., 53, were standing firm in their determination to go through with the trial. Both

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men face the additional charge of actually intercepting oral and wire communications, but Liddy alone is not charged with two counts of possessing intercepting devices.

McCord's attorney, Gerald Alch of Boston, said on his return to Boston Saturday night that McCord would not plead guilty and would stand trial.

Alch said, "On behalf of James McCord, his intentions have been to stand trial and prove his innocence, which he intends to do."

The reports that the Miami four wanted to follow the lead of E. Howard Hunt Jr. in pleading guilty were reinforced Friday afternoon when U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica

abruptly closed his court to press and spectators. Then he conducted a two-hour session alone with the six defendants and their lawyers.

A State Department interpreter was called in for Gonzalez, whose English is not good enough to grasp legal technicalities.

"I don't want anybody to talk to anyone about anything in these proceedings," Judge Sirica warned before closing the court. At the end of the day he called in the jury—which has been out of the court more than it has been in—and adjourned until Monday without explanation.

The New York Times on Sun-

day reported that the four Miami men, all with Cuban and CIA backgrounds, have been regularly paid since their arrest in the Watergate building complex June 17.

The copyrighted story by Seymour M. Hersh said Sturgis suspects that some of the salary originated with the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Rothblatt said the story was nonsense.

McCord was security coordinator for the committee; Liddy had been counsel for the Finance Committee in the re-election campaign. Both men were dismissed from their jobs when the Watergate case broke.

Hersh wrote that federal investigators indicated any traceable connection between the defendants and the re-election committee has been severed and that any funds "long since passed into the control of those unknown men still paying the Watergate group."

The Times article also said that defendant Martinez was an active employe of the Central Intelligence Agency at the time of the break-in but was fired within a day of the arrest.

It also said that a free-lance writer with connections to anti-Castro circles in Miami has been circulating to New York publishing houses the outline of what he describes as Sturgis' experiences.