

4 Watergate Suspects Said Still Being Paid

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Sources close to the Watergate case have said that "at least four of the five men arrested last June in the Watergate raid are still being paid." The New York Times reported yesterday.

The Times, in a front-page article, also quoted sources "familiar" with the case as saying that one of the men caught in the break-in at Democratic headquarters, Eugenio Rolando Martinez, "was an active employee of the Central Intelligence Agency at the time of the break-in" and was stricken from the CIA's payroll within a day of his arrest.

Martinez and five other men enter the second week of their trial here today on charges of conspiracy, burglary and wiretapping before Chief U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica. There have been persistent reports since Friday that four of the defendants—the ones the Times reports are still being paid—want to follow the lead of former White House aide E. Howard Hunt Jr., and switch their pleas to guilty.

The Times said these points were made by more than one person in a series of interviews with "federal investigators, political figures and defense lawyers":

- High officials of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President have acknowledged privately that they are unable to account for \$900,000 in campaign contributions.

- A Nixon supporter, working in Democratic headquarters, taped open doorlocks leading to the basement, allowing the five men eventually caught to enter the Watergate.

The Times' article, written by Seymour M. Hersh, says that one of the defendants, Frank Sturgis, acknowledged in a meeting in Miami two weeks ago that he has continued to receive payments but that "his funds had been sharply reduced in the last

few months. Another closely involved source said that payments to the four men now range from \$400 a month up."

The money is coming from unnamed sources, the Times said, with Sturgis suspecting that part of it originated with the committee for the Re-Election of the President.

The article states that a freelance writer, Andrew St. George, has been circulating a proposed book outline to New York publishers that recounts Sturgis' undercover work. In the outline is an assertion that former Attorney General John N. Mitchell was kept informed of the activities of the Watergate defendants.

De Van L. Shumway, a spokesman for the re-election committee, was quoted in the article as saying that the Times story was "outrageously false and preposterous," and that Mitchell joined in that criticism.

The article said that St. George signed a contract with Harpers' Magazine Press for the book, and that a publishing firm spokesman had confirmed that such a contract had been signed for "under \$5,000."

In addition, an NBC official was quoted as saying that the television network had paid something under \$8,000 for a contract with Sturgis, with Sturgis to be interviewed on the "First Tuesday" monthly news program.

The Times states that "both Mr. St. George and Mr. Sturgis are controversial figures in their own circles, where they have mixed reputations. While some praise Mr. St. George's intelligence" and devotion, others say he "sometimes confuses fact and fantasy."

The article states that "there are many in the Miami area who have denounced Mr. Sturgis as a fabricator" but "there are obviously those who thought him reliable enough to join the intelligence team."