

# Four More Defendants Plead Guilty To Watergate Charges

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Four more defendants in the Democratic headquarters bugging case pleaded guilty Monday, saying they had done their job not for pay but because it was "the right thing to do."

Their removal from the trial leaves only George Gordon Liddy, former counsel for the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President and James W. McCord Jr., the re-election committee's security chief, as defendants in the case that started with seven men charged. E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former White House consultant, pleaded guilty Wednesday.

Their lawyers moved for a mistrial on grounds that the jury would be left wondering why five of the original seven defendants suddenly were removed from the trial. The federal judge trying the case turned down the motions, and Thomas Gregory—the last witness on the stand—was brought in for cross-examination.

U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica questioned the four defendants closely before accepting their guilty plea on all sev-

en counts and ordering each held under \$100,000 surety bond.

An attorney for the four Miami-ans said his clients were not able to raise the bond and would remain in jail until sentencing.

The four men are Bernard L. Barker, 55; Eugenio R. Martinez, 50; Frank A. Sturgis, 37 and Virgilio R. Gonzalez, all of Miami.

"Were you getting paid?" the judge asked.

"No, I didn't get paid for my services," Martinez said. "Barker gave me expense money, \$400-\$500."

With the reduced number of defendants, it seemed certain that the full story of the circumstances behind the break-in at Democratic headquarters at the Watergate building would not come out of this trial, even if it continued with only two defendants. A Senate investigation has been promised by Democratic senators.

The four defendants said again and again that the government's opening statement to

the jury last week was accurate.

Earl J. Silbert, the chief prosecutor, spent two hours outlining a conspiracy he said began with an appropriation of \$250,000 for investigative work administered by Liddy and said that \$235,000 actually was spent.

The story he told was one of meetings and telephone conversations between Hunt and Barker that culminated in the four Miami-ans and McCord breaking into Democratic headquarters in Washington on June 17 and planting microphones and wiretaps in the offices as well as stealing and photographing documents.

"Who handled the money?" the judge asked.

"Money doesn't mean a thing," said Martinez in a heavy Spanish accent. "I owned a hospital in Cuba, I owned a factory, I lost everything (to Fidel Castro). Money is not a great deal in my decision."