

# 4 Watergate Suspects Plead Guilty

## 2 Defendants

### Still on Trial

By Lawrence Meyer

Washington Post Staff Writer

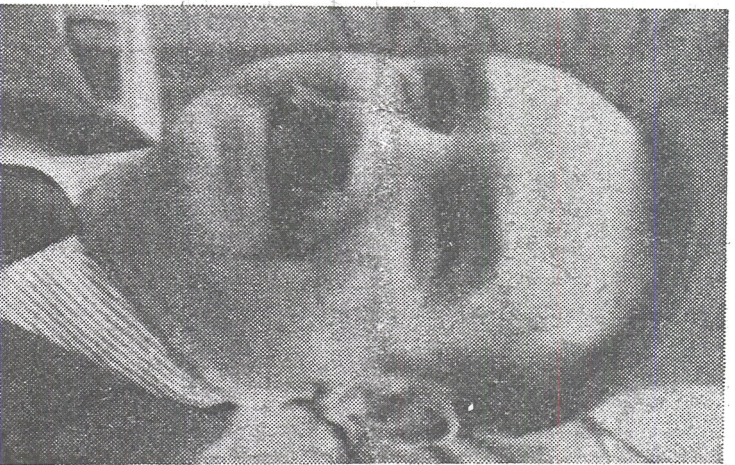
Four more Watergate defendants pleaded guilty to conspiracy, burglary, and illegal wiretapping and eavesdropping yesterday.

Lawyers for the remaining two defendants immediately called for a mistrial, which Chief U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica turned down. Testimony in the case resumed for the first time since Thursday.

Sirica accepted the pleas of the four defendants, all from Miami, after trying—but generally failing—to elicit new information about motivation and payment for and break-in and bugging of the Democratic National Committee's headquarters last June 17.

Those who pleaded guilty are Bernard L. Barker, Frank Sturgis, Eugenio R. Martinez and Virgilio R. Gonzales. Last Thursday, former White House consultant E. Howard Hunt Jr. pleaded guilty.

The four Miami men were arrested inside the Watergate by metropolitan police on June 17 at about 2:30 a.m. Arrested with them was James W. McCord Jr., then the security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-election of the President. McCord and G. Gordon Liddy, also a former White House and re-election committee official, are the two remaining defendants.



Watergate suspects still on trial are James W. McCord Jr., left, and G. Gordon Liddy.

United Press International

The motion for a mistrial was made by Gerald Alch, McCord's lawyer.

Alch told Sirica that the jury would see the four men and Hunt absent and conclude that they had pleaded guilty, a conclusion that would prejudice the rights of McCord and Liddy to a fair trial. "No instruction," Alch said, "can obviate the inference that these five men have pleaded guilty . . . after two days of de-

liberations to which the jury has not been privy."

Sirica said he had ample precedent for denying the motion and told Alch that he could appeal the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals later. "I'm not awed by the appellate courts. Let's get that straight," Sirica said bluntly. "All they can do is reverse me. They can't tell me how to try my case."

Before questioning each of the four Miami men yesterday, Sirica recapitulated

events that began Friday, when no testimony was taken and the defendants and trial counsel spent several hours in secret conferences.

Sirica quoted from a letter, a copy of which Barker had given Earl J. Silbert, chief prosecutor, Friday morning, in which the four defendants told their lawyer, Henry Rothblatt, that they wanted to plead guilty.

See WATERGATE, A7, Col. 5

## Judge Pushes For Answers

By Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward

Washington Post Staff Writers

Judge John J. Sirica was asking Bernard L. Barker, a defendant in the Watergate bugging case, about "these \$100 bills that were floating around like coupons," and Barker was saying that he didn't really know where they came from.

"I assume it was in connection . . . to the operation of the Watergate," said Barker, adding that he could not say much else because "I got that money in the mail in a blank envelope."

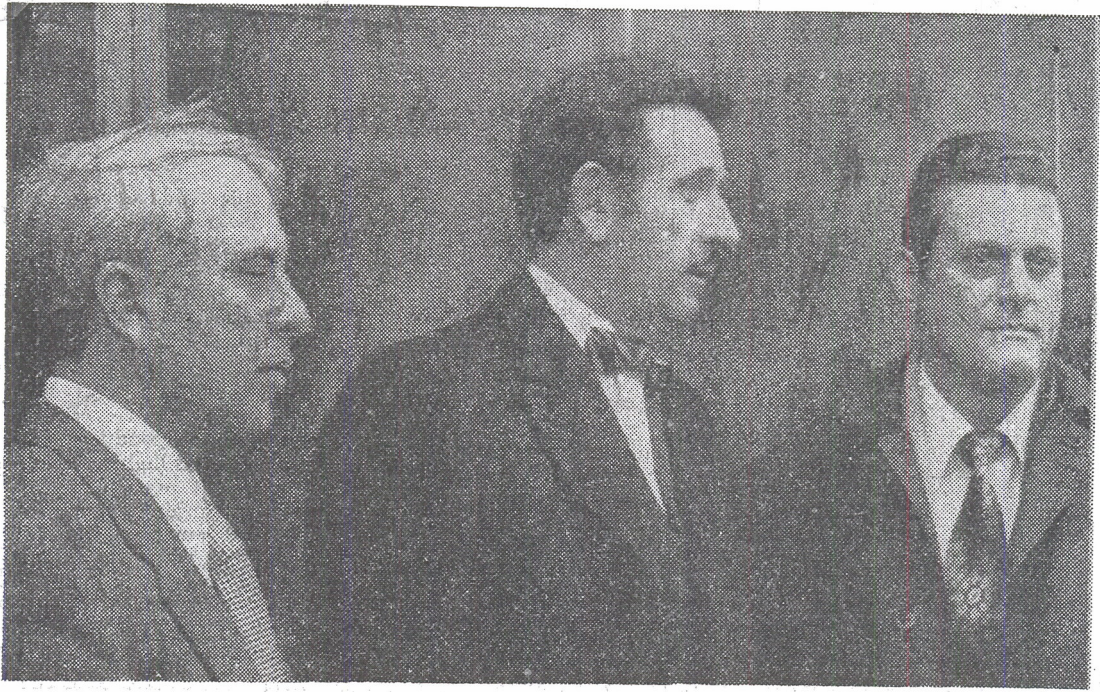
"Well, I'm sorry, I don't believe you," replied Judge Sirica, who for almost an hour had been fruitlessly seeking to elicit some information about what led Barker and three of his comrades to break into the Watergate on June 17.

The four "men from Miami" as they have repeatedly been referred to in the Watergate trial—Barker, Frank Sturgis, Eugenio Martinez and Virgilio Gonzalez—were not under oath as the judge questioned them.

They had been called to the bench by Sirica, who asked assurance that their desire to plead guilty to all the charges against them and march off to prison for up to 55 years was entirely their own.

See SIRICA, A7, Col. 1





Arriving at court yesterday, from left, Eugenio R. Martinez, lawyer Henry Rothblatt,



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Frank Sturgis and Bernard L. Barker and Virgilio R. Gonzales.



## WATERGATE, From A1

"We have been asking you since Sunday, Jan. 7, 1973, to change our plea from not guilty to guilty," the letter said. Rothblatt refused and continued to refuse through last Friday when he told reporters he would not plead his clients guilty and that they would have to get another lawyer if they wanted to change their plea.

Rothblatt, in his opening statement on Wednesday, told the jury that his clients were "following orders" in "a military fashion."

In their letter to Rothblatt, the four men said, "We have made it clear from the beginning that the defense you presented in opening statements and to the press is not acceptable to us."

Sirica questioned the defendants closely about press reports that they were being induced and "pressured" to plead guilty by promises of financial rewards for themselves and their families.

Each of the four men could receive a maximum sentence of 55 years in jail and a \$50,000 fine.

Individually, and then as a group, the defendants denied that any inducements had been made or promises given by Hunt or anyone else that they would receive anything in return for a guilty plea. They also denied reports that they were still being paid. "Are you being paid by anybody for anything," Sirica asked. "No," they replied in unison.

After the proceedings, Rothblatt was asked if Hunt were applying "pressure" to the four men. "That I cannot discuss, will not discuss," Rothblatt said, explaining that he is barred from revealing a confidential attorney-client communication. Rothblatt has indicated that although Sirica formally relieved him as the lawyer for the four men, he still has an interest in them.

Sirica appointed Alvin Newmyer Sr., 89, the senior member of the District of Columbia bar, to represent the four men for purposes of changing their plea to guilty. Sirica described Newmyer as a "highly respected leader of the District of Co-

lumbia bar and an outstanding trial lawyer for many, many years."

Following their guilty pleas, the four men were taken to the D.C. jail where they were being held in lieu of a \$100,000 surety bond that Sirica had demanded from each of them. Hunt was released Thursday after posting the same amount of bond.

The afternoon session began with the resumption of testimony by Thomas J. Gregory, a 25-year-old Brigham Young University student who testified he was recruited by Hunt to spy on Sen. Edmund S. Muskie later Sen. George McGovern.

Gregory repeated portions

yesterday of testimony he had given out of the jury's presence on Thursday. He described how Hunt introduced him to McCord and how McCord tried unsuccessfully to place a bug in McGovern's campaign headquarters.

Later, Gregory said Hunt introduced him to a man who was wearing sunglasses when Hunt picked Gregory up in a car one night in mid-May. When the three stopped for hamburgers at a McDonald's, Gregory said, the man took off the dark glasses. It was Liddy.

Gregory said Liddy and Hunt personally surveyed McGovern headquarters prior to the last attempt to

break in on May 28. That attempt, by the four men from Miami, was headed off by Gregory when he warned them someone still was in the headquarters, Gregory said.

Silbert told Sirica during the afternoon session that he was submitting a diary belonging to Martinez that the FBI had seized while searching the defendant's car. Silbert said the diary, often described in news reports as being Martinez' account of the Watergate incident, was "almost totally blank." Silbert said there was "absolutely no foundation whatsoever to all that speculation about this diary."

# Don't Believe You, Judge Tells Suspect

SIRICA, From A1

Their heads bobbed up and down in unison as they told the judge that their decisions were uncoerced, then nodded vigorously back and forth amid a chorus of "No, your honor" as Sirica asked if anyone had made suggestions about "executive clemency... or commutation of sentence."

On this, the sixth day of the Watergate trial, morning newspapers had quoted sources "close to the defendants" and "close to the case" as variously saying that the Miami men were under "great pressure" to plead guilty and had "been urged by former White House aide E. Howard Hunt Jr. to follow his lead and plead guilty." Over the weekend, there were other newspaper and magazine reports that the four still were being paid.

As they stood in front of the judge—with Barker, the apparent leader among the four at parade rest and his three codefendants at attention—they told the judge they did not know anything about such matters.

Sirica—noted for his stern, no-nonsense courtroom demeanor and strict sentencing—then began asking the kind of questions he has said he wants answered in this trial:

"For what purpose did you four men go into the Watergate?" he asked. "Who hired you? . . . If there are other people—that is, higher-ups in the Republican Party, the Democratic Party or any other party—I want to know it. What was the motive? Where did this money come from? who was the money man?"

The interrogation began with Martinez, who works as a real estate salesman for Barker in Miami. When a clerk handed Martinez the microphone in the big ceremonial courtroom, the pa-

rade rest that had been maintained by his boss disintegrated and marker began wringing his hands behind his back and bouncing up and down on his toes.

"I want you to start from the beginning and tell me how you got into the conspiracy," Judge Sirica demanded of Martinez. ". . . I don't care who (the answers) might help or hurt. . . . Don't pull any punches."

"I believe the facts charged in the indictment are true," was Martinez' response.

"That's a blanket statement," noted the judge and asked Martinez pointedly how he was recruited for the Watergate operation. "Maybe I offered myself," the defendant suggested.

When the judge attempted to find out if Martinez had ever done work for the CIA, as news reports have said about all of the Miami men, Martinez answered, "Not that I know of." Among those who

laughed at the answer was a codefendant, G. Gordon Liddy, a former White House aide, and Nixon campaign official who ended a brief nap at the defense table when Sirica started asking about the origins of the conspiracy.

Was the paid? the judge asked Martinez. "I did not get paid for my services" except for expense money from Barker, he answered. "Money, it doesn't mean a thing," added Martinez. "I owned a hotel, a furniture factory in Cuba. I lost everything."

Frank Sturgis, the Norfolk-born soldier of fortune who wants to write a book about the activities of the Miami men, was equally emphatic in dismissing money as a motive. "When it comes to Cuba and the communist conspiracy involving the United States," he told Sirica, "I will do anything to protect this country."

The only connection between the Watergate bug-

ging and Cuba that the judge was able to elicit, was a statement from Barker that E. Howard Hunt had intimated that whatever they were doing inside Democratic headquarters would somehow liberate the Caribbean island.

"Sir, I have had the privilege and honor of knowing Mr. Hunt for some time," Barker said by way of answering why he was making phone calls to Hunt in the White House long before April 17—when the government says the conspiracy began.

Were any other "higher-ups" involved, Barker was asked. "I was working with Mr. Hunt. I was completely identified with Mr. Hunt. I had the greatest honor . . . (in working) with Mr. Hunt as my superior," he said.





Sketch by Betty Wells

**Conferring at bench with Judge Sirica at Watergate trial are (from left) attorney Alvin Newmyer Sr., defendants**

**Bernard L. Barker, Frank Sturgis, Eugenio R. Martinez and Virgilio R. Gonzales. The four pleaded guilty yesterday.**