

LIDDY SAID TO DEFY WHITE HOUSE PLEA TO TALK TO JURORS

Jailed Watergate Defendant
Is Reported Informed of
Presidential Interest

STRONGER CASE SOUGHT

Officials Say Ex-Campaign
Leader Remains Silent
to Protect Mitchell

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WASHINGTON, April 22—
G. Gordon Liddy, the leader of
the Watergate break-in, has
turned down a White House
request that he change his mind
and begin telling all he knows
about the bugging of the Demo-
crats to the Federal grand jury,
sources close to the case said
today.

The sources said that al-
though he was told about Presi-
dential interest in his case,
Liddy was adamant about re-
fusing to cooperate with the
Federal prosecutors in the case.
Last month the former official
of the committee for the re-
election of the President was
given an additional eight-month
sentence for refusing to testify
to the grand jury after being
granted immunity from future
prosecution.

"Liddy believes that the
President wants him to cooper-
ate," one source said, "but he
still isn't saying anything."

Protection Hinted

Some Government officials
are said to believe that Liddy,
in refusing to talk, is protect-
ing former Attorney General
John N. Mitchell, his old super-
ior at the re-election commit-
tee. Liddy is now in the District
of Columbia jail.

Liddy attended at least three
planning meetings in early 1972
with Mr. Mitchell, John W.
Dean 3d, White House counsel,
and Jeb Stuart Magruder, a
Mitchell deputy on the cam-
paign committee, which have
become a focal point of the
prosecution inquiry.

Mr. Magruder has accused
Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Dean of
approving plans for the bug-
ging of the Democratic Nation-
al Committee headquarters at
those sessions. The others deny
any such approval was given,
although Mr. Mitchell has said
that the bugging plan was dis-
cussed.

Approval Reported

Henry E. Petersen, Assistant
Attorney General who has been
put in charge of the case by
President Nixon, is said to have
some doubts about the Mag-
ruder statements and to feel
that further confirmation must
be obtained to strengthen the
Government's case.

Two former members of the
Watergate team, James W. Mc-
Cord Jr. and Frank A. Sturgis,
have stated that Liddy re-
peatedly assured them before
the June, 1972, arrests inside
the Democrat's offices that their
operation had been approved by
Mr. Mitchell.

McCord's statements were
repeatedly made to Senate in-
vestigators and to the grand

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jury since he decided to turn
state's evidence one month ago.
Mr. Sturgis made a similar
statement during a conversation
with a reporter for the New
York Times in Miami nearly
four months ago.

White House involvement in
the Liddy situation apparently
began within the last two weeks,
sources said. One former high-
ranking White House aide was
said to have met with John
Ehrlichman, President Nixon's
chief domestic adviser, and to
have urged him to get Mr.
Nixon personally involved.

Peter L. Maroulis of Pough-

keepsie, N.Y., Liddy's attorney,
refused to comment today on
possible White House pressure
on his client.

Another closely involved
Liddy as being "aware" of the
White House interest and
pleased by it.

"It's important to Liddy to
know that the White House is
interested in this," the source
said.

"Liddy is a man of singular
fortitude," he added. "He's go-
ing up the river but he's not
taking the captains or lieuten-
ants along with him."

Liddy was given a 6-year 8-
month sentence last month for
his role in heading the bugging
operation. It could not be
learned how the White House
communicated its desires to
Liddy, in jail.

Mr. Maroulis, while refusing
to discuss that matter, did ex-
press distress at what he called

a "despicable" attempt by Earl
J. Silbert, the chief Govern-
ment prosecutor, to influence
his client.

Liddy's insistent refusal to
talk has dismayed both the
prosecution and his friends, who
believe that his best chance of
getting a significant reduction
in his jail term can come only
from cooperating.

Mr. Maroulis visited his client
twice in the jail last week in
an apparent attempt, among
other matters, to get him to
change his mind.

"The kind of loyalty Liddy
has you don't find any more,"
one source said. "Too bad it
was so misguided."

Liddy, a former district at-
torney in upstate New York,
joined the Nixon Administra-
tion in 1969 and worked in the
Treasury Department and in
the White House before trans-
ferring to the re-election effort.