

'Bug' Figure Tied Self to GOP

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By Peter A. Jay
and Jon Katz

Washington Post Staff Writer

A few days before he was arrested with four companions for allegedly breaking into Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, Frank Sturgis reportedly was describing himself in Miami as a Republican official and seeking to rent hundreds of rooms there.

Officials at two private Catholic colleges in Miami said yesterday that Sturgis telephoned them and asked if they would provide lodging for members of Young Republicans coming to the GOP National Convention in August.

Republicans organizing the

convention disclaimed any knowledge of Sturgis's activities. "We certainly didn't ask him to find any housing," said Steve Nostrand of the convention staff in Miami. "We have all the housing we need already locked up."

"He said he was a Republican organizer and asked if we had space at the college," said John Truitt, the director of the Center for Continuing Education at Biscayne College, a small institution for men. "We decided we could offer him 110 places."

Truitt said he called Sturgis back at the number he had given and reached Barker Associates, the real estate firm owned by Bernard L. Barker, another of the five arrested in

the Democratic offices in the Watergate complex on June 17.

"Sturgis wasn't there and I didn't think any more about it," said Truitt. "I was waiting to hear from him so we could confirm it. I didn't realize who he was until today," when a reporter called.

An official at Barry College, a school for women, said Sturgis had called there also. "We were ready to offer him 200 or more places," he said. Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini, left the Barker Associates' number, the college official said, and did not call back.

It was reported earlier that Eugenio Martinez, a third member of the Watergate

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breaking-and-entering suspects and also a Miami resident, had contacted the housing office of the University of Miami and made a similar request James Grimm, the director of housing, said Martinez told him he needed 3,000 spaces.

Martinez worked for Barker at Barker Associates. Sturgis reportedly was a friend of Barker's of long standing, and like him and Martinez—both Cuban natives—had participated in the unsuccessful 1961 effort to unseat Fidel Castro by a CIA-backed invasion.

Sturgis, Martinez and Barker—but Barker most of all—were known here as fervent anti-Communists and political conservatives. Sturgis once organized something called the International Anti-Communist Brigade, which he said in 1963 had 5,000 members.

Law enforcement officials predict Cuban exiles will demonstrate at the Democratic National Convention when it opens in Miami July 10 to express opposition to any proposals for better relations with the Castro regime. But there is no solid explanation why Sturgis and Martinez were seeking rooms for the Republican convention—rooms for which the party has no need.

In an odd twist to the continuing story of the Watergate incident, it was reported yesterday that attorney Edward Bennett Williams, who is representing the Democratic Party in its \$1 million suit against the Committee for the Re-election of the President, helped Barnard Barker regain his American citizenship approximately 10 years ago.

Barker's daughter, Maria Elena Barker Moffett, 25, who lives in suburban Virginia, said in a telephone interview that Mario Lazo, who represented a number of American clients in Cuba before the Castro revolution, asked the Washington attorney to help get Barker's citizenship back. It had been revoked because Barker was working for for-

mer Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista's secret police.

Williams said he has no recollection of Barker or of any citizenship restoration proceeding.

Lanzo said in a telephone interview from Norfolk, Conn., where he now resides, that he recalled writing Williams and asking him to use his influence to get a senator or congressman to introduce a "hardship" bill that would have restored Barker's citizenship.

He said that Williams wrote

and told him he would help, although Lazo said he isn't certain what the outcome was of the citizenship restoration effort.

Researchers of both the Senate and House Judiciary Committees and Immigration Subcommittees said they had no records of legislation introduced from 1959 through 1970 restoring Barker's citizenship.

The interviews with Lazo and the daughter, Barker's only child, revealed a new and different picture of Barker, who operates a Miami real estate business.

Barker's daughter said press descriptions of her father as a braggart and cloak-and-dagger spy are "fantastic" and irresponsible. She described Barker as a patriotic, family man.

According to the daughter, Barker was the first American to enlist in the war from Cuba, and was "shipped out" within 24 hours of Pearl Harbor.

She said that during the War, Barker was shot down over Germany, held in a Nazi prison camp for 17 months, and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for having flown 10 missions.

She said that because of machine-gun wounds and his imprisonment, he received a presidential citation for bravery in action beyond the call of duty "and many other medals and ribbons."

Mrs. Moffett said her father had joined the Cuban police at the request of two FBI agents named Anderson and Garcia, and an American legal attache in Cuba named Spears.

She said he knew he might lose his American citizenship but agreed because the American officials asked him to.

He has recently worked in Miami, doing "legwork" for construction contractors, she said.

As far as the bugging incident is concerned, she said, "All I can tell you is that my father loves his country and taught me to love it very much. He couldn't kill a fly. He's a very gentle and naive man."

"I don't know anything about what's going on," she said. "All I read is fantastic, and is obviously being used for political purposes."

"I love him very much," she said.

Mrs. Moffett said her father was always opposed to Castro, and hid anti-Castro activists in his home.

She said she granted the interview because she was afraid a jury reading press descriptions of her father would be brainwashed.

According to the Cuban attorney, Lazo, Barker was most executed by a Cuban firing squad shortly after Castro came to power.

"Barker had a man living with him doing counter-revolutionary work," said Lazo.

The fellow decided to make a move and got caught and told police where he had been hiding.

by Castro's police," he said,

Lazo said Barker came to him for help, and he (Lazo) was able to arrange for the arrested man to shout that he had not been in Barker's house before he was executed.

"That, without a doubt saved Barker's life," said Lazo.