

Barker Said to Pin Bugging on C.I.A.

Special to The New York Times

MIAMI, April 25 — Bernard L. Barker, the convicted Watergate burglar, made a concerted effort here last summer to present his break-ins at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington as Central Intelligence Agency operations, Richard E. Gerstein, Dade County state attorney, said today.

Mr. Gerstein, whose interest in the Watergate investigation dates from last July, a month after the June 17 arrest of Barker and four other men in the Democratic offices at the Watergate complex, said that his assessment was based on sworn testimony this morning by a Cuban who spoke with Barker about the break-ins last year.

The Cuban, Genaro Perez, came voluntarily to Mr. Gerstein to correct a statement he made to the state attorney's office last September. At that time he said, that Barker and another convicted figure, Frank A. Sturgis, never went to a photo shop where he works to have two rolls of film with Watergate documents developed.

Mr. Gerstein, who successfully prosecuted Barker last November on charges of falsely notarizing a check, said that Mr. Perez in his testimony swore that Barker also repeatedly told him last September that he and his men would be fully protected from the Watergate and Miami charges.

Brought in Rolls

On June 10, a week before the Watergate arrests, Barker and Sturgis—according to Michael Richardson, an employe of Rich Photos Inc., of Miami, who identified the two men from pictures, and Mr. Perez, who knows them personally—

brought in two rolls of 35-mm film and asked for a rush developing job.

Mr. Richardson, the developer of the film, who said later that the 38 10-by-7 inch prints he delivered to Barker were mostly Democratic party documents, passed "with flying colors" a polygraph examination at Mr. Gerstein's request.

But Mr. Perez continued last year to insist that his colleague was mistaken in his identification of Barker and Sturgis.

In today's sworn testimony, Mr. Perez said that by mid-September he told a cousin of Barker that he was unhappy about his denial of the June 10 incident.

"We set up an appointment to see Mr. Barker, Mr. Perez testified, "and two weeks later I went to see Mr. Barker and inquired what was going on or the Watergate. He assured me that the reasons they went over there was to help fight Castro. He insinuated this was a C.I.A. operation."

'For Same Company'

Asked by Mr. Gerstein whether Barker "did actually say it was an 'operation' interrogation," Mr. Perez replied:

"He [Barker] put it this way: 'we are working for the same company. The C.I.A. is the company; that's what we [Cubans] call it. Then Barker said, 'We have support of the company.'"

Mr. Perez further testified that Barker was "very sure of himself." He added: "He said he didn't have any worries, he believed that nothing would happen to him and his men. He told me that they don't have any problems, that everything will be taken care of by 'the people.'"

When Mr. Perez told Barker

that he had lied to the state attorney's office about the photo shop incident, Barker said "You are a man and a good Cuban and Cuba will be grateful to you," Mr. Perez testified.

This testimony, Mr. Gerstein commented, could lead to the prosecution of Barker here for subornation of perjury and obstruction of justice.

McCord Testimony

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WASHINGTON, April 25—Another convicted Watergate conspirator, James W. McCord Jr., testified to a Federal grand jury two weeks ago that some officials of the Committee for the Re-election of the President had also tried initially to portray the bugging operation as a C.I.A. operation.

As evidence, McCord recalled for the panel a conversation he had had last summer with Mrs. Dorothy Hunt, the late wife of E. Howard Hunt Jr., who pleaded guilty in January to conspiring to bug the Democrats' Watergate offices.

McCord testified that, according to Mrs. Hunt, Paul O'Brien, a lawyer for the Republican committee, had told her husband, "when he first came into the case, that he'd been told by the [re-election committee] that C.I.A.—that this was a C.I.A. operation, and [she said] that her husband, Hunt, had denied it and wouldn't sit still for it." McCord continued: "And I said, 'Well, you can simply pass the word that neither will I, because it was not a C.I.A. operation.'"

Both Hunt and McCord, who was convicted at the trial in January, are retired career employes of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mrs. Hunt was killed in a plane crash at Chicago's Midway Airport last December.