

Nixon Ex-Aides, 5 Others Indicted In Bugging Case

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Jury Bares New Details Of Break-In

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A federal grand jury returned an indictment in the Watergate bugging case yesterday against two former White House aides, G. Gordon Liddy and E. Howard Hunt Jr., and the five men arrested inside the Democratic headquarters here on June 17.

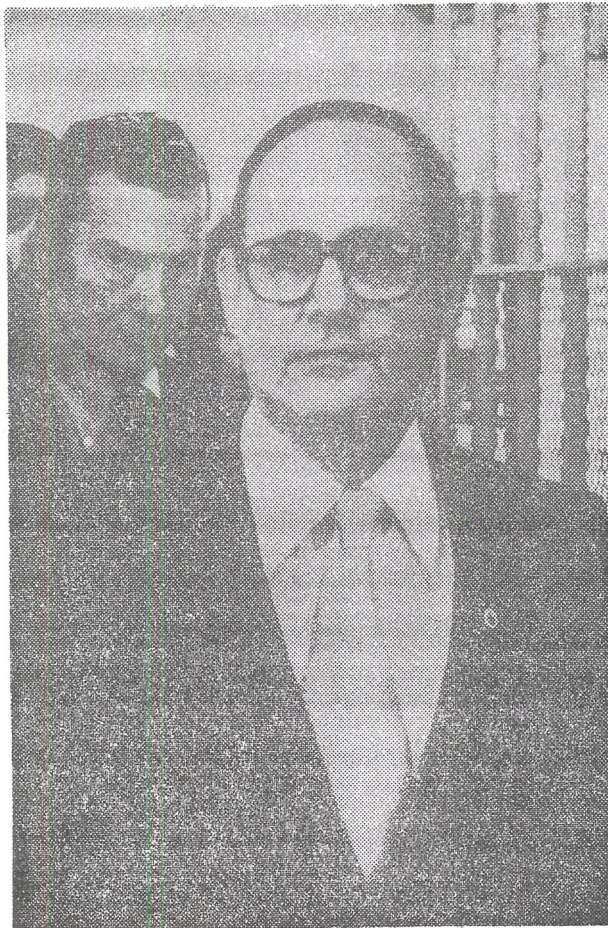
The eight-count indictment, returned here in U.S. District Court, charges the seven men with conspiring to steal documents and eavesdrop on the Democratic headquarters from May 1 to June 17.

Though the indictment does not touch on the central questions about the purpose or sponsorship of the alleged espionage, it asserts following new details:

- Hunt and Liddy actually entered the Democrats' headquarters on June 17 "with the intent to steal property of another" though they were not arrested with the other five men.

- The only money involved in the conspiracy is \$1,600 that Liddy gave to suspect James W. McCord Jr., the former security chief of President Nixon's re-election committee.

- Liddy, Hunt and McCord "inspected, surveyed and reconnoitered the headquarters of Sen. George McGovern at



United Press International

Bernard L. Barker leaves Dade County jail after posting a \$1,000 bond on a charge involving a check.

410 1st St. SE" on May 27.

Liddy, 42, a former White House and Treasury Department aide, was fired as financial counsel for the Nixon re-election committee after he refused to answer FBI questions about the incident.

Hunt, 54, a 21-year veteran of the CIA and a former White House consultant, dropped from sight for several weeks after his name was publicly linked to the Watergate incident.

Liddy and Hunt are believed to be the first White House aides ever to be indicted in the nation's history, according to a spokesman for the National Archives.

The other four persons named in the indictment are Bernard L. Barker, a Miami real estate man; Eugenio R. Martinez, an employee in Barker's firm Frank A. Sturgis, a soldier of fortune, and Virgilio R. Gonzalez, a Miami locksmith. Only McCord is named in all eight counts of the indictment.

Four of the eight counts were brought under D.C. law. One alleges burglary, the maximum penalty for which is two to 15 years in jail, and three charge possession of eavesdropping devices. The latter provides a maximum penalty of five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

The four other counts were brought under federal law. One alleges conspiracy and the other three interception and

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WATERGATE, From A1

disclosure of telephone and oral communications. The penalty for both can be five years and a \$10,000 fine.

In releasing the indictment yesterday, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst said the three-month investigation was "one of the most intensive, objective and thorough investigations in many years, reaching out to cities all across the United States as well as into foreign countries."

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III said on Tuesday that his agents were still "running leads" in the case.

It could not be determined immediately whether the return of the indictment meant the federal investigation into the Watergate incident is complete.

The Democrats, who have

used the Watergate incident as a campaign issue have said the investigation must be pursued. The Republicans, on the other hand, called on the Democrats to apologize for charging other White House and Nixon campaign officials with involvement.

Lawrence F. O'Brien, campaign manager for Sen. George McGovern, charged in June that "there is developing a clear line to the White House" in the case.

Reacting to the indictment yesterday, O'Brien said in a prepared statement that "we can only assume that the investigation will continue since the indictment handed down today reflects only the most narrow construction of the crime that was committed."

"In particular," O'Brien continued, "we will continue to press for a far more thorough explanation of the funding of the crime."

O'Brien was referring to \$144,000 of Nixon campaign checks that were deposited in suspect Barker's Miami bank account.

The exact reason for the transfer of the checks from the Nixon campaign treasury has not been fully explained, although both the General Accounting Office and the House Banking and Currency Committee have made lengthy reports on the matter.

Liddy was the last Nixon campaign official to have the checks in his possession, according to the Aug. 26 report by GAO, the investigative arm of Congress.

Yesterday's indictment made no reference to campaign funds.

Clark MacGregor, the President's campaign manager, reacted to the indictment yesterday by calling for public apologies from "those who have recklessly sought to connect others with the case."

In an obvious reference to the Democrats, MacGregor added: "We now appeal to all those who have sought political benefit from this case to discontinue saying or doing anything that will interfere with a full and fair trial."

Sen. Robert Dole, chairman of the Republican National Committee, was more direct and demanded an apology from McGovern and his campaign organizers.

"As we knew all along," Dole said, "and as the grand jury has now determined, there is no evidence to substantiate any of the wild and

slandrous statements McGovern has been making about many high officials in the Nixon administration.

"I would expect McGovern to stop trying to make a political issue out of this matter."

When the indictments were formally returned yesterday in District Court, principal Assistant U.S. Attorney Earl J. Silbert asked Chief Judge John J. Sirica specifically to choose a judge for the case, rather than allowing the usual random selection of a judge.

Silbert, who directed the grand jury investigation, noted that the trial is expected to be "protracted, difficult and widely publicized"—the criteria upon which the U.S. Judicial Conference has recommended the appoint-

ment of the "best available judge".

Meanwhile, U.S. Attorney Harold A. Titus Jr. said he did not know when the government would be ready to begin prosecution of the seven defendants.

The 10-page indictment asserts that the alleged conspiracy included:

- Taking photographs of "documents, papers, and records" and "then returning them to the location from which they were illegally removed." (O'Brien had earlier made this charge publicly.)

- Leasing of rooms at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge across from the Watergate to receive the intercepted conversations. The indictment charges that from May 5 to May 28, McCord rented room 419, and from May 29 to June 17 rented room 723.

- Purchasing a \$3,500 system "capable of receiving intercepted wire and oral communications" on May 10. McCord bought the equipment, the true bill said.

- Numerous phone calls, some travel from Miami to Washington, meetings, and the renting of rooms at the Watergate on May 26 by all the defendants except McCord.

According to the indictment, Liddy used the alias of George F. Leonard and Hunt used the alias of Edward L. Warren when registering at the Watergate.

The indictment charges that the five men arrested in the Watergate June 17 had in their possession a small oral interception device with two labels on the front that read

"ARI Smoke Detector" and "Fire Eqpt. Do Not Remove." In addition, they had a separate telephone interception device the size of a small match box, according to the indictment.

The only actual interception of conversation took place from May 25 to June 16, according to the indictment. It charges that Liddy, Hunt and McCord "willfully, knowingly and unlawfully" intercepted telephone conversations of R. Spencer Oliver, executive director of the Democrats' state chairmen association, and his secretary, Ida M. Wells.

All seven defendants were charged with five of the counts. The five counts are conspiracy, intent to steal property, entering the Democrats' Watergate headquarters, attempted interception of telephone conversations and attempted interception of oral conversations.

In two of the other counts, the five men arrested inside the headquarters were charged with possession of a telephone listening device and a separate oral communications device.

In the eighth count, Liddy, Hunt and McCord were charged with actually intercepting telephone conversations over a 3-week period.

The bare essentials of the alleged espionage campaign against the Democrats came to light early in the morning of June 17 when five men were arrested inside the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee on the sixth floor of the Watergate.

His suspicion aroused by tape stuck over the latch of a stairwell door, a 24-year-old Watergate security guard had called police shortly before 2:30 a.m. Minutes later plainclothesmen burst into Democratic headquarters with guns drawn and, they said, found five men, a kit loaded with burglary tools, a walkie-talkie, two 35 millimeter cameras, 40 rolls of film, two bugging devices and \$5,300 in freshly minted \$100 bills.

Although the arrested men gave the police false names (most of them borrowed from characters in the spy-and-sex novels written by their alleged coconspirator, Hunt), their real identities were learned within hours by police.

The first link to the Nixon re-election organization was established when it became known that one of the sus-

pects was McCord, 53, the "security coordinator" for the Committee for the Re-election of the President and a security consultant for the Republican National Committee.

In addition to McCord, a former FBI agent himself who had left the Central Intelligence Agency in 1970 after 19 years as a security specialist, the other men arrested were identified and described as:

- Barker, 55, a Cuban exile who once served in Fulgencio Batista's Bureau de Investigaciones and later helped recruit members of the Bay of Pigs invasion force for the CIA.

- Sturgis, also known as Frank Fiorini, 37, a Norfolk-born soldier of fortune who fought with Fidel Castro in the Cuban revolution and later almost lost his American citizenship for dropping anti-Castro leaflets over Havana.

- Martinez, 49, an associate in the Miami real estate firm owned by Barker and performer of low-level, odd jobs for the CIA in that city's Cuban community.

- Gonzales, 45, a Cuban-born, locksmith and safe specialist at Miami's Missing Link Key Shop.

Almost immediately after the arrests, the Democrats suggested that responsibility for the raid on their headquarters lay at the doorstep of the White House. These allegations were rejected by administration officials who—in the words of presidential press secretary Ron Ziegler—officially dismissed the Watergate break-in as a "third-rate burglary."

Word soon leaked, however, that police had found the name of E. Howard Hunt—beside the notations "W. H." and "W. House"—inside the personal address books of two of the men arrested in the Watergate.

Hunt, it was learned, had been hired as a White House consultant in 1971 on the recommendation of Charles W. Colson, special counsel to the President and a man known as the administration's specialist in covert political operations.

Eleven days after the arrests, Liddy was fired as finance counsel of the Nixon re-election committee by the President's campaign manager, former Attorney General

John Mitchell. Within the next two weeks Mitchell himself resigned, as did Hugh W. Sloan Jr., the treasurer of the Nixon re-election committee.

Both cited "personal reasons" for leaving the President's campaign and said their resignations were unrelated to the Watergate case.

The Democrats, meanwhile,

filed a \$1 million invasion-of-privacy suit against the five suspects and the President's re-election committee, immediately permitting them to take sworn testimony about the case from administration and committee officials. The Nixon re-election committee eventually responded with a counter-suit, charging the Democrats with using the courts for partisan political purposes.

On Aug. 1, attention moved from the courts, however, to the financial aspects of the Nixon campaign with The Washington Post's disclosure that a \$25,000 check—representing a contribution to the President's campaign—had been deposited in the bank account of Barker.

The check, investigators learned, had come from Kenneth Dahlberg, the President's chief fund-raiser in the Midwest, who passed it on to former Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans who is finance chairman of Mr. Nixon's campaign. From Stans, the check went to Sloan and then Liddy and finally Barker, according to investigators. Another \$89,000 in Nixon campaign checks moved from Texas to Mexico to Washington and to Barker's bank, investigators also determined.

The General Accounting Office, meanwhile, cited the Nixon re-election organization for 11 "apparent violations" of the new federal campaign finance law, all related to the money in Barker's account and a \$350,000 fund in Stans' safe of which no records were apparently kept. The grand jury's report makes no mention of how or by whom the Watergate operation was funded and Nixon committee officials have denied GOP funds were used.

The Democrats' own investigation brought the next major revelation in the case, based on an account of the political espionage operation as told by a self-described participant in the scheme.

That account almost exactly parallels the grand jury's chronology of the alleged covert activities conducted by the men indicted yesterday. The Democrats' informant also alleged that McCord sent typed versions of bugged conversations to, among others, a White House aide and several high officials of the Committee to Re-elect the President.