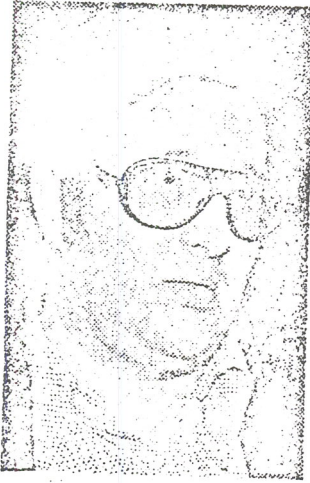


'Came From Watergate Burglar'



Pablo Fernandez
... 'declined offer'

Spy Job Offer at

By **ROB ELDER**
Herald Staff Writer

A Miami man said Tuesday that convicted Watergate burglar Eugenio R. Martinez offered him \$700 a week to infiltrate protest groups at last summer's Democratic convention and to embarrass George McGovern "for the Republican Party."

He turned it down, he said, because he was already busy spying on Vietnam Veterans

Against the War for the FBI and Miami police.

Pablo Manuel Fernandez, 28, a burly equipment parts clerk who left Cuba as a teenager, said he was told by Martinez:

"You get 10 people and get inside McGovern headquarters in the hotel.

The "big money" mission "to infiltrate the demonstrators" was discussed over lunch a year ago this week,

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Convention Revealed

said Fernandez, who makes \$800 a month in his clerk's job.

Fernandez said he didn't think he could mix two undercover missions.

Earlier, however, he said, he did accompany the Watergate crew to Washington to break up left-wing demonstrations by starting fights at the funeral of FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover.

made contact with the VVAW by falsely claiming, on instructions of the Miami Police Department, to represent a militant Cuban exile group called Abdala.

VVAW Florida coordinator Scott Camil and former Miami coordinator Alton Foss asked him where they could buy weapons, Fernandez said. He played them along for months,

FERNANDEZ said he

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wearing a hidden transmitter to one meeting and tape recording some of his phone conversations with Camil for the FBI.

The FBI, which had planned to use Fernandez as a surprise witness in the conspiracy case against Camil, Foss and six other VVAW figures, refused to comment Tuesday on his story.

Miami Police Chief Bernard Garmire confirmed that Fernandez supplied information on the VVAW to the department's Strategic Information Unit. But Fernandez wasn't paid anything and, "I don't know if he gave us anything of any great assistance or not," Garmire said.

"THERE WERE any number of people who volunteered their services. He was just one of them. Eventually, he was asked to stay away from the department."

Camil said he didn't know Fernandez was a police informer until a reporter told him Tuesday.

And it was Fernandez who brought up the subject of weapons, Camil insisted.

"He said they (the Cubans) could make grenade launchers and automatic weapons available to us but we would have to buy them."

ABDALA indeed is an organization with members in Miami, but he lied when he said he was its representative, Fernandez said. In fact, he said, he also was spying on Abdala — for the Cuban Revolutionary Party, of which he was youth director.

Fernandez told his story to this reporter after he and another Miamian, Angel Ferrer, were questioned by State At-

torney Richard Gerstein's chief investigator, Martin Dardis. Dardis did not take sworn testimony, but Gerstein told a press conference later that both men, "if given immunity . . . would have a lot more to say."

Ferrer said he also accompanied the Watergate team to Washington for Hoover's funeral, Gerstein said. Two other Miamians, Reinaldo Pico and Felipe De Diego, previously had told The Herald they were recruited for that mission last May.

The VVAW figured in the original decision to break into the Democratic National Committee's Watergate headquarters in Washington last spring, James McCord testified Tuesday.

McCord, one of the convicted burglars and former security chief of the Committee for the Reelection of the President, told a nationally televised Senate hearing he wanted to find out whether the Democrats were influencing the VVAW to plan violent demonstrations against President Nixon.

He does not now believe that to be the case, McCord said.

In Gainesville, spokesmen for the VVAW defendants called McCord's statement a "big lie" and charged that the conspiracy case was filed against the veterans "for the purpose of giving credibility to the contrived defense in the Watergate case."

In a separate interview with The Herald, Camil claimed that if Fernandez really recorded their various meetings and conversations, "then this means the Miami Police Department has stuff that can clear us."

Fernandez said he made contact with VVAW on instructions of Ralph Aguirre, a member of the Miami police Strategic Intelligence Unit. Aguirre told him, Fernandez said, that he should go to the office of the Cuban Student Organization on the University of Miami campus.

Camil telephoned there, trying to reach Abdala, and Fernandez returned the call,

claiming to represent Abdala. Camil said Tuesday he placed the call because he heard rumors last spring that "militant Cubans were going to try to break up our demonstrations and I wanted to tell them we weren't anti-Cuban and there wasn't anything to worry about."

Fernandez and the veterans agreed to meet at a Hialeah drug store. Fernandez isn't sure of the date; Camil says it was May 31 or June 1, 1972.

ACCORDING TO Fernandez, Camil asked about buying carbines and Foss "talked about grenades." Fernandez said he did not ask why the veterans wanted the weapons but assumed it was to "scare people at the conventions."

He added: "They weren't peaceful."

Fernandez went to the meeting wearing a hidden microphone. According to him, it transmitted to a

receiver and tape recorder manned at another location by four Miami policemen.

A week after the drug store meeting, Camil, Foss and other VVAW members were indicted by a federal grand jury for conspiracy to disrupt the Miami Beach conventions with firebombs and other weapons.

THE INDICTMENTS were based largely on testimony by William Lemmer, an Arkansas veteran who was working for the FBI as an informer. He was at the meeting with Fernandez, wearing an Army uniform and carrying a gas mask.

Fernandez said he did not then know that Lemmer also was an informer. Nor, he said, did he realize that two other young men who attended VVAW meetings were infiltrators for the Dade County Public Safety Department.

"I almost got in a fight with them. I had no idea they

were policemen," he said.

Foss claims that the PSD agents, Gerald Rudoff and Harrison Crenshaw, later tried to set him up to attend another meeting "with Cubans from Abdala" to discuss buying weapons. Foss says he refused to go.

FOSS ADMITS, however, that he himself temporarily acted as an informer while trying to "make a deal" with Frank Gibbons, an agent of the Miami FBI office.

Fernandez said Tuesday he worked for Gibbons in an unpaid capacity, telephoning Camil and recording the conversations at Gibbons' request.

He placed the calls from his own telephone, Fernandez said.

The government has denied that prosecution of the VVAW group is in any way based on electronic eavesdropping.

FERNANDEZ, who left Cuba at age 16 and spent two

years in Spain, is divorced, has no children and lives with his parents at 7750 SW 18th Ter.

He knew Bernard Barker even before he went with the Watergate crew to the Hoover funeral, Fernandez said. "Everybody knows Macho Barker."

"Macho" was the name by which Barker was known in CIA circles.

When he went to Washington with Barker, Fernandez said, he was told it was on CIA business — "some kind of operation to fight Castro."

BUT IT quickly became apparent that the mission had another purpose:

"Barker showed us pictures of Kunstler and Ellsberg," Fernandez explained, referring to New Left lawyer William Kunstler and Daniel Ellsberg, defendant in the now defunct Pentagon papers case. "We were supposed to stop them from talking. We were supposed to holler and fight."