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Most Cited in Scandals Pleaded Guilty

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 1 — While more than 60 individuals and corporations have been convicted or pleaded guilty to criminal charges growing out of the Watergate scandals, only a handful have gone on trial.

The legal pattern was set two years ago, on Jan. 10, 1973, when E. Howard Hunt Jr., a defendant in the original bugging and break-in case, pleaded guilty before Judge John J. Sirica of the United States District Court here.

Four of his co-defendants took a similar course, and only two—G. Gordon Liddy and James W. McCord Jr. — remained to be found guilty by the jurors on Jan. 30.

Since then, practically all of the Watergate figures have chosen to plead guilty before judges, sometimes without a grand jury indictment against them. Prosecutors would simply file the equivalent, an information, with the plea.

The parade of Nixon campaign workers and White House officials began on June 27, 1973, when Frederick C. LaRue, an assistant to former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who headed the re-election campaign, pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Mr. LaRue, a Mississippi oilman who became an important

witness for the prosecution, is awaiting sentencing. But many of the most prominent Watergate figures are already serving prison terms.

Jeb Stuart Magruder, former deputy director of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, was sentenced last May 21 to a term of 10 months to four years for conspiracy to obstruct justice and defraud the United States.

John W. Dean 3d, former counsel to President Nixon, was sentenced last Aug. 2 to serve from one to four years, and Charles W. Colson, former special counsel to the President, received a one-year to three-year term.

Richard G. Kleindienst, who succeeded Mr. Mitchell as Attorney General, pleaded guilty last March 16 to a misdemeanor for withholding information in an appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee. He got a one-month suspended sentence.

One of the few cases to reach a jury between the original break-in trial two years ago and the climactic proceeding that ended today also involved John D. Ehrlichman and also resulted in a guilty verdict.

Mr. Ehrlichman, who was assistant to President Nixon on domestic affairs, was convicted last July 12 of a civil rights conspiracy and other charges in a September, 1971, burglary of a psychiatrist's office.

The break-in was part of a campaign to discredit Daniel Ellsberg, who has said he made public the Pentagon papers on the Vietnam war. Mr. Ehrlichman was sentenced to serve 20 months to five years in prison in that case.

Others who chose jury trials and were found guilty by the panels included Dwight L. Chapin, the former White House appointments secretary, and Ed Reinecke, the former Lieutenant Governor of California.

Mr. Chapin was convicted of two counts of making false declarations in the investigation of sabotage and other "dirty tricks" against the Democrats in the 1972 campaign. He received a prison sentence of 10 to 30 months, which he has appealed.

Mr. Reinecke was convicted last July 27 of one count of perjury in connection with proposed payments to the Nixon re-election campaign by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation. He received a suspended sentence.

A major jury trial in the Watergate scandals ended with acquittal. Mr. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans, the former Secretary of Commerce, were found not guilty in New York of charges based on a cash payment of \$200,000 to the Nixon re-election campaign from Robert L. Vesco, the fugitive financier.