

NO S-1

JAN 15 1973

# 4 More Admit Guilt, Watergate Trial in Air

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four more Watergate political espionage defendants pleaded guilty to all charges Monday, dimming the prospects that the full story behind a break-in at Democratic party headquarters last year would come out in this trial.

The guilty pleas by Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez, Frank A. Sturgis and Virgilio R. Gonzalez left only two defendants remaining on trial — James W. McCord Jr., security chief for the Nixon presidential reelection campaign, and G. Gordon Liddy, who was counsel to President Nixon's campaign finance committee.

With the absence now of five of the original seven defendants, a defense attorney said a motion for a mistrial would be offered later in the day.

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica set bond at \$100,000 for each of the four, the same bond he had set for E. Howard Hunt Jr., former White House consultant and the seventh defendant, who pleaded guilty Wednesday.

**BEFORE ACCEPTING** the guilty pleas, Sirica questioned the four at length to pry loose information about their motives and others who might be involved.

Sirica also asked a series of questions apparently related to recent published reports that the men had been offered various inducements for their pleas.

All four denied any pressure or promises behind their plea and said they were acting only under patriotic motives under the impression that their activities were somehow aimed

“against a Communist conspiracy” against the United States.

GERALD ALCH, attorney for one of the remaining defendants, James W. McCord Jr., said before court opened that he would seek a mistrial if the guilty pleas were offered, claiming the jury would conclude, even though it wouldn't be told, that the others had admitted guilt. The other remaining

Turn to Page 10, Column 1

defendant is G. Gordon Liddy.

The new guilty pleas were offered by court-appointed attorney Al Newmeyer, in lieu of New York Lawyer Henry B. Rothblatt, who had represented the four through the first week of trial but had refused to have them plead guilty.

Like Hunt, the four were required to plead guilty to all of the counts against them.

**ALL FOUR** were charged with seven counts of an eight count indictment and face maximum possible prison sentences of 55 years each. All four have CIA backgrounds dating from the Cuban Bay of Pigs invasion.

Sources close to the defense had said earlier that the Miami four had been under intense pressure to plead guilty and avoid a full airing of the charges against them, stemming from the burglary of Democratic party headquarters here last summer. The withdrawal of five of the seven defendants makes it unlikely that the full evidence in the case will be made public, at least in this trial.