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Watergate Act of Patriotism--Wife

MIAMI — (AP) — Clara Barker, wife of Bernard Barker, one of the four Miami men convicted in the Watergate break-in, says her husband's motive was patriotism, not money.

Mrs. Barker laughed at suggestions the four were paid to keep silent and go to jail. She said "The Committee of Help" organized by 14 members of the Cuban community is paying the men's legal fees.

A spokesman for the group, Reinaldo Vergara, said Thursday the committee had opened five bank accounts and collected between \$3000 and \$4000. He said none of the cash came from the Committee to Reelect the President or from Republican party sources.

"We have nothing to do with any political thing," he said. "Whatever they did, if they did anything, was to help this country in the fight

against Communism."

Barker, Augenio Martinez, Virgilio Gonzalez and Frank Sturgis are awaiting sentencing for burglary.

Mrs. Barker said she didn't know specifically what her husband had been doing but didn't expect to because he had been in "intelligence work" since Premier Fidel Castro came to power.

"The left hand doesn't tell the right hand what it is doing, let alone the wife," she said.

"I can't see anything so bad for all this fuss . . . to me it is just a political thing. He did something he thought was patriotism. Not because someone offered him millions of dollars — that is stupid.

"We didn't like (Senator George) McGovern in the Cuban colony in general. Every time he said he was going to make friends with

Castro we'd say: 'Well, what are we all doing here.'"

Mrs. Barker said.

The families of the other three Miami men involved refuse to discuss the case.

Celia Gonzales, wife of Virgilio, is now working as a waitress at a hotel near Miami Airport.

She says with some financial help from a son and daughter, she is able to pay her bills.

Jean Martinez's marriage to Martinez ended the day he was arrested at the Watergate complex.

But she says she is harassed by anonymous phone calls and believes her ex-husband "acted out of a belief — not for money."

Jan Sturgis works as a \$520 a month traffic controller. She refuses to talk to newsmen and told one reporter: "You and your kind are worse than Fidel Castro."