

wa Post

# Reactions to Watergate

By Donald P. Baker

Washington Post Staff Writer

Jimmy Castro, who has been hawking newspapers at the corner of 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW for more than 20 years, figured the testimony of Watergate conspirator James McCord would sell an extra 200 copies of the Evening Star-News.

"It's helped sales," Castro said of what is called simply the Watergate Affair. "Wars, demonstrations, congressional hearings—you know like the Army-McCarthy suff—they help," he said.

It was noon, and most people were buying the Star-News, but others opted for The Post, Times, Sun, Journal and a few for the National Enquirer, which shouted in a bold headline: Jeanne Dixon Predicted Watergate Four Years Ago.

A block away, the last of the day's tourists straggled down the driveway of The White House, stopping to pose for one more picture before its spotless columns.

"He (President Nixon) will be out of office before the end of the year," predicted Marie Kennedy, a Philadelphia Democrat.

"What's the difference?" answered John Durkin, a of the President: "If he is 'They'll just put another one in. There's always been spies—Judas Iscariot, he was the biggest. He started it."

Army Sgt. Richard Wirtanen of Waukegan, Ill., said of the resident: "If he is involved, he will be found out."

"He's going to get it—I hope," said Mrs. Wirtanen.

"We're moving to Germany," said Robbie Wirtanen, who because he is only 4, obviously did not mean it to sound like a political decision.

Harry Britton, the Husband Liberation advocate who has been standing outside the White House gate for the last 30 months, told a tourist: "The secret government is the cause of it all. If he would have held weekly press conferences, gone before the people, this never would have happened."

Britton, incidently, has updated his protest, adding a sign praising tennis star Bobby Riggs for his victory over Margaret Court.

Alma Yearout, a 67-year-old "diehard Republican" from Wellington, Kan., can't understand "why everyone is making such a stink. I don't think it's any worse than any other administration."

"We'd all be better off not to talk about it," said her friend. "Think of what it does to our image overseas." She declined to give her name, and told Mrs. Yearout, "you'll be sorry for telling him yours."

Up and down the avenue the lunch hour conversation was full of the catch phrases of the day . . . "Yeah, Colson," said a man, his voice full of intrigue . . . "And then he said," whispered a gray-haired woman to her two companions, as they sipped Budweisers and munched the \$1.95 special—creamed eggs on toast—at Nichol's Cafe, across the street from the Executive Office Building . . . "Why should I watch television, there's never anything on it," said a woman as she left the White House employees gate.

At the Sans Souci, a favor-

ite eating and drinking spot for "highly placed government sources," manager Paul Delisle explained that "we do not have a TV at the Sans Souci." That fact, he admitted, may have hurried the departure of Herb Klein, the President's communications director, just after 2 p.m. when the Watergate hearings resumed on the Hill. "Victor Gold, the former press secretary to Vice President Agnew, also left early," said Delisle.

Around the corner from the 17th Street restaurant, a tallish, slim young man huddled in front of a portable television set, as did millions of other Americans.

"Yes, many of my friends called and said they were pleased," said Robert C. Odle Jr., who had made his nationwide television debut the day before.

His wife, Lydia, had taken

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the day off from selling real estate to watch from their home in Alexandria, and his parents, who watched at their home in Port Huron, Mich., called Thursday night to say they were proud.

Odle, 29, was back at work yesterday in the office of the Committee to Re-elect the President, an organization that remains in business, according to press director DeVan L. Shumway, at least partially because "we are involved in at least six legal actions."

The committee has cut its operations to 10 full-time employees, housed in two suites at 1701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Outer doors to its offices and the adjoining Republican Finance Committee, are equipped with double locks, one of which is a combination affair as is found on bank safes.

At 2600 Virginia Ave. NW

—scene of the break-in last June 17—the sixth floor of the Watergate office building is vacant. The Democrats moved out last month to smaller, less expensive and hopefully more secure quarters.

In addition to a note listing its new address, the door displays what might be considered an ill-advised advertisement for a burglar alarm company. "Protected electronically," it proclaims.

The new Democratic headquarters, on the fourth floor of the Air Line Pilots Association building at 1625 Massachusetts Ave. NW, was aglow with the light from portable television sets yesterday.

Bob Maynas, a press liaison officer, said it was "virtually impossible to be out of earshot" of the testimony being presented to the Senate select committee.

DNC Chairman Robert

Strauss was out of town, but his secretary showed off his office, which features a three-foot tall, gold styrofoam facsimile of a Yale lock. It was given to Strauss by a Houston Press Club last month, instead of a key to the city, with the inscription, "key, hell, what you need is a lock."

And finally, out in Rockville, Anita Gale, hostess of the Blue Fountain Inn, mentioned during yesterday's hearing as the place outside of which McCord received telephone calls from a mysterious, unidentified voice, could not recall McCord.

"I suppose this will bring us some publicity," she said, "I hope it's good, if it does."

At the edge of the restaurants parking lot, the Washington area's newest tourist attraction was in the making: A camera crew from the NBC was photographing the empty booth.