

'The Four Cubans' -- Who Got the Cash?

By Richard T. Cooper
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Washington

BETWEEN his laundry bag and his window ledges, Anthony T. Ulasewicz swears he passed along tens of thousands of dollars to succor the Watergate burglars. President Nixon's personal lawyer risked his good

name for the "humanitarian" cause.

Former Presidential Adviser John D. Ehrlichman compared it with the crusade to free Angela Davis, and other White House aides lent helping hands.

But it's all been so much "propaganda," according to the families of the four men commonly described as "The Four Cubans." Their families say they got only crumbs from the \$400,000 cookie.

"Where the hell is that money?" the wife of convicted Watergate burglar Bernard L. Barker asked in a telephone interview from Miami.

"Who offered to do anything, to help with anything? They never came down here and offered it to us," she asserted.

Mrs. Barker and other wives, as well as a Miami lawyer, Ellis Rubin, who now represents them, said this week that they had received only a few hundred dollars for family support, plus a few thousand that went to attorneys' fees.

During the senate Watergate committee hearings, Herbert W. Kalmbach testified that while serving

as President Nixon's personal attorney, he raised \$220,000 during the weeks immediately after the June 17, 1972 break-in. Kalmbach said he considered it a "humanitarian" project to pay for the legal defense and family support of the seven men who had been arrested.

As Kalmbach's secret agent, former New York

Police Officer Ulasewicz told of passing the cash along in a variety of covert ways, including the concealing of money in a hotel laundry bag.

H.R. Haldeman testified that during his tenure as White House Chief of Staff he made some \$350,000 in campaign cash available for the cause. And Frederick C. LaRue, a high-level political adviser at the Nixon campaign committee, handled payments after Kalmbach backed out.

But just where all that money went seems to be something of a mystery, at least to the families of Barker, Frank Sturgis, Virgilio Gonzalez and Eugenio Martinez.

Some of the cash went to James W. McCord Jr., another of the Watergate burglars, he has acknowledged.

And a substantial amount went to the seventh convicted burglar, E. Howard Hunt.

Also, various lawyers employed in the tangled legal cases growing out of the break-in have acknowledged collecting many thousands in fees.

But the Miami defendants were all but ignored, according to the families. "They were the little guys on the totem pole," Mrs. Barker said.

"It's just not true that we got a lot of money," Mrs. Sturgis said. "If we'd gotten that money we wouldn't be down here in Miami while our husbands are up in Danbury (Conn., federal prison)," she said.

Mrs. Barker and Mrs. Sturgis generally confirmed a report by columnist Jack Anderson, based on interviews with the four men, that Sturgis had received about \$2500 in expenses, Gonzalez \$1600 and Martinez \$1800.

New York attorney Henry Rothblatt, who first represented the four men, said he got a total of \$18,000

from Barker last fall as partial payment of his own and other lawyers' fees. He said he is about to sue the President, the Nixon campaign committee and others for about \$125,000 still owed him.

Rothblatt said the campaign committee has ignored his bills but he has no plans to bill the families.

Some \$19,000 is also still owed to Washington lawyer Daniel Schultz, according to Mrs. Barker.

She said she has received a total of about \$5000 "in bits and pieces" from a Cuban friend, Manuel Artime, including about \$500 from a fund-raising committee established recently in Miami's Cuban community.

Miami attorney Rubin, who represents the families now, said Artime got the money from two sources: the new defense fund and three mysterious envelopes

filled with cash totaling about \$3000 which he received last summer.

Mrs. Barker said she has been forced to close her husband's real estate office and sell its furniture.

In her view, the treatment of the four, especially the long delay in fixing sentences, has been unfair. "They thought they were doing something heroic for their country," she said.



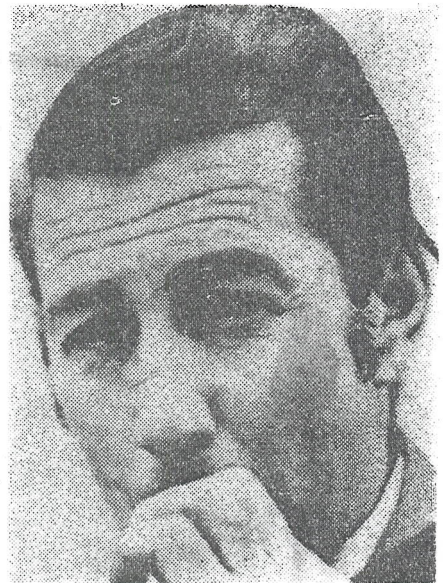
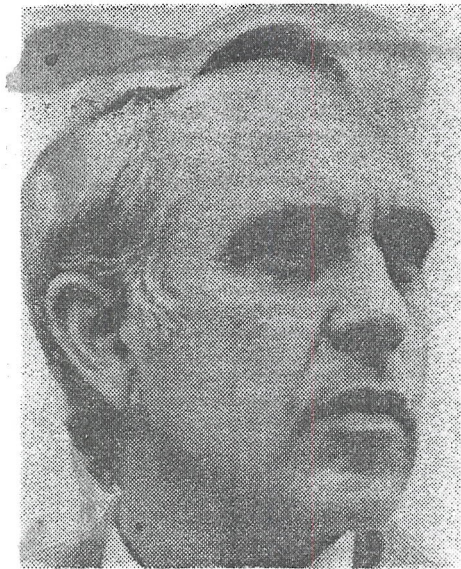
McCord and Hunt got some of the payments



Sturgis and Barker: "Little guys on the totem pole"



Private Eye Ulasewicz



Martinez and Gonzalez: A vision of being heroic



First, Kalmbach ...



... then, LaRue



Rothblatt says he won't bill the families