

Watergate Defendants Sentenced To Serve at Least 1 to 2½ Years

By Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Federal Judge John J. Sirica sentenced six of the original Watergate burglary defendants yesterday to prison terms ranging from a minimum of 2½ years for former White House aide E. Howard Hunt to a minimum of one year for several others including former Nixon campaign security chief James W. McCord.

For five of the defendants, including Hunt, the sentences were substantial reductions from earlier 35-to-40-year prison terms "provisionally" imposed on them by Judge Sirica until they cooperated with the ongoing Watergate investigations.

Several of them told Sirica yesterday, however, that despite their cooperation they still do not believe the whole truth about the Watergate affair has yet come out.

Yesterday's sentencing was the first for McCord who originally aided in expanding the Watergate investigation with a letter to Judge Sirica last March, in which McCord declared that witnesses at the Watergate trial in January had perjured themselves.

The final sentences given the six men by Sirica yesterday also were considerably lighter than the final sentence he imposed in March on the seventh original Watergate defendant, former White House aide G. Gordon Liddy.

Liddy, who was steadfastly refused to cooperate with any Watergate investigation, must serve a term of at least six years and eight months in prison. He also was fined \$40,000. He is currently serving a contempt of court term that coincides with the life of the first Watergate grand jury.

The sentences imposed yesterday by Sirica were:

- Virgilio Gonzalez, Eugenio Martinez and Frank

See SENTENCE, A8, Col. 4

SENTENCE, From A1

Sturgis, three Miami residents who were found inside the Democrats' Watergate headquarters at 2 a.m. on June 17, 1972, received matching terms of one year to four years in jail.

Judge Sirica made it clear

to the three men that they would be eligible for parole in about one month. But he pointed out that he would not be able to influence the parole board's decision.

- Bernard L. Barker, a Miami resident who recruited the three others for the surreptitious entry into the Watergate and who also had pleaded guilty to seven counts, will serve a term of 18 months to six years.

Barker has also served about 11 months in jail, so he would be eligible for parole next summer.

- McCord, who also was found inside the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate, was sentenced to serve a term of from one year to five years in prison.

McCord, the only defendant who was free on bond pending sentencing, was given another 15 days of freedom to get his affairs in order before going to prison. However, in that time he could take legal steps that, if approved by the judge, would allow him to remain free pending appeal.

- Hunt, a former member of the White House special investigative unit known as the plumbers who recruited Barker for the Watergate mission, was ordered to serve a prison term of 30 months to eight years and pay a \$10,000 fine.

Hunt, who already has been in jail for seven and one-half months, will be eligible for parole in the fall of 1975.

Sirica's courtroom on the second floor of the U.S. District Courthouse was packed when the jailed defendants were brought from the cellblock for their final sentencing. McCord had waited in the public corridor, apparently unnoticed by about 100 spectators who also were waiting while the courtroom's doors were opened.

Barker smiled broadly and waved at his wife and daughter in the front row as he walked from the cellblock to the defense table. He and his three Miami friends were the first persons called to the front of the courtroom by Judge Sirica.

Their attorney, Daniel Schultz, made an impassioned, 40-minute plea for mercy for his clients. He told Sirica, as he has often in past hearings, that his clients were duped by their

friend, E. Howard Hunt, who came cloaked in the robes of a White House aide speaking of an intelligence operation bigger than the FBI and the CIA combined.

He described the four MI-amians as "unwitting tools in illegal political espionage" who are "still confused . . . (and who) still don't know whether the whole truth will come out."

Schultz said his clients did not take part in the break-in for money but for patriotic reasons outlined to them by Hunt. "Prison is not the place for patriotic men," Schultz said.

"How long will the government vent its anger at

these four little men from Miami . . . these soldiers . . . when architects and generals of this plot haven't served a day in jail?" Schultz asked.

Martinez spoke with a heavy Spanish accent when the judge asked him if he wished to say anything. "I'm here because I'm a Cuban . . . that's why I have been so useful to this country in infiltrating other countries," Martinez said.

Martinez provoked the only laughter of the otherwise somber session and drew a smile from the judge when he said, "I don't believe you have all the facts yet. I read the paper and see

where you're still looking for two tapes." He was referring to Sirica's continuing hearing into White House tapes of the President's claims that two subpoenaed White House conversations about Watergate never existed.

Martinez spoke bitterly of his stay in the D.C. jail, where he said he was given only one mousetrap to put under his bed each night, a restriction that allowed other mice to run through his cell and steal his food.

Barker also spoke briefly to the judge, saying, "I can vouch that when I recruited these three men (the other Miami defendants) I did not recruit them for any criminal purpose."

Both McCord and Bernard Fensterwald Jr., his attorney, spoke before McCord's sentencing. Fensterwald said what McCord did was in a "gray area of strict legality and illegality."

McCord also said he did not believe the whole truth



BERNARD L. BARKER



JAMES W. McCORD

about Watergate has come out, and added he participated in the breaking "because

I believed the President authorized it and set it in motion."

Sidney Sachs, the attorney for Hunt, spoke of Hunt's ill health and the death of Hunt's wife in a plane crash many months ago. Sachs also pointed to Hunt's past service to the country in the CIA.

"If this is a crime, it is a crime of patriotism," Sachs said. Hunt did not speak.



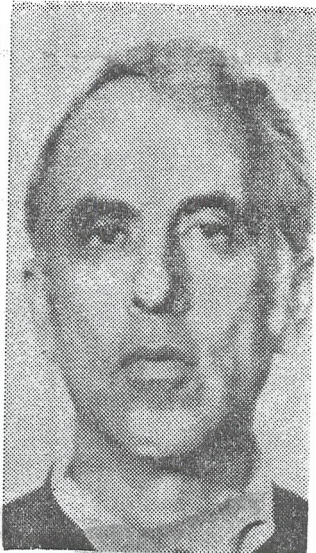
United Press International
Bernard L. Barker's daughter, Maria-Elena Moffett, left; his wife, and attorney Daniel E. Schultz, leave courthouse.



VIRGILIO GONZALES



FRANK STURGIS



EUGENIO MARTINEZ



E. HOWARD HUNT