

Liddy Guilty of Contempt

Washington

G. Gordon Liddy was found guilty yesterday of contempt of Congress despite his defense that "his lips were sealed" against testifying on the White House plumbers unit.

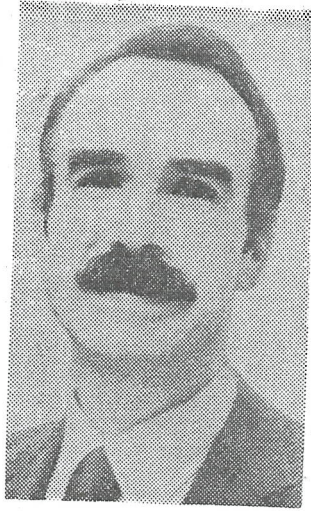
But U.S. District Judge John H. Pratt suspended a six-month sentence, noting Liddy is already serving another contempt sentence and then faces prison time for conviction of burglary, conspiracy and wiretapping in the Watergate break-in.

Judge Pratt found Liddy guilty of two counts — refusing to be sworn in before the House intelligence subcommittee last July 20 and refusing to testify to the subcommittee.

Sentence was suspended on both counts, running concurrently, and Liddy was put on a year's probation.

Liddy indicated he will appeal the conviction.

His lawyer, Peter L. Maroulis of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., contended that the Supreme



G. GORDON LIDDY
'His lips were sealed'

Court has ruled that no case can be prosecuted in the courts that would publicly expose state secrets.

"His lips were sealed," Maroulis said.

The lawyer said Liddy was bound to secrecy as a member of the White House plumbers.

President Nixon announced last May 22 he had set up the group to find out how the Pentagon Papers and other state secrets were being leaked to the press and public.

Associated Press